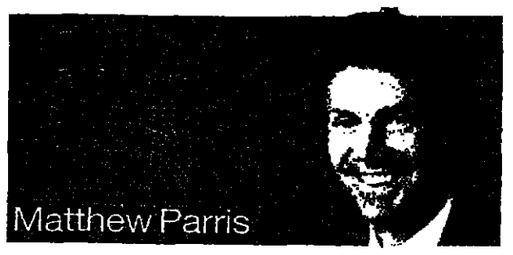
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Monday
November 16 1998
Britain's newspaper for Europe

The Guardian EUROPE


G2 with European weather


Peter Ustinov in G2


Matthew Parris

As Iraq celebrates, Saddam is told: One false move and we will strike

Clinton, Blair keep up pressure

Ian Black, Martin Kettle in Washington and David Sharrock in Amman

THE United States and Britain vowed last night to bomb Iraq if Saddam Hussein does not keep his promise to permit unconditional weapons inspections as the world breathed a sigh of relief that air strikes had been aborted at the 11th hour.

As details emerged of Saturday's knife-edge climbdown, secured only after US bombers had already taken off for their targets, Washington and London insisted that there must now be full compliance by Baghdad to destroy its banned weapons.

"Iraq agreed to meet the demands of the international community to co-operate fully with the United Nations weapons inspectors," President Bill Clinton said.

"Iraq has backed down but that is not enough. Now Iraq must live up to its obligations. Until we see complete compliance we will remain vigilant, keep up the pressure and be ready to act."

Tony Blair, firmly behind the US president, echoed this, saying Britain remained "ready, willing and able" to launch air strikes without further warning.

As UN inspectors headed back to Baghdad, Downing Street stepped up its rhetoric, fearful that the outcome of the crisis would be seen as showing a lack of resolve.

"Saddam is now trapped," the Prime Minister's spokesman said. "One false move and he can be hit legitimately, and with the kind of international support that would not have been the case before."

But for all the tough talk, the US and Britain are, in fact, little freer to act alone than they were before Iraq dramatically broke off all co-operation with the UN Special Commission, Unscom, on October 31.

That flagrant violation of last February's agreement with the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, made it far harder for Russia, France, China and many other countries to oppose military action.

If Iraq is again co-operating, that opposition is certain to return, and pressures will again mount for an easing of sanctions.

US and British sources made clear last night that Unscom inspectors would be conducting highly intrusive searches for banned chemical and biological weapons as soon as they get back to work, perhaps as soon as today.

In Baghdad, the vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, said his country would pursue its struggle to get sanctions lifted.

"The leadership of the Baath party and the revolution ... has decided to continue efforts with all means to confront the American threats and to lift the siege," he declared.

In Washington and London there was unconcealed triumph at the scale of Iraq's retreat after its first highly qualified letter arrived at the UN on Saturday.

"We squeezed out two more letters, each clarifying in ever more abject terms the unconditional nature of the climbdown," crowed one official.

But in both capitals there was irritation that Mr Annan had publicly welcomed the first Iraqi response, weakening the sense of steadily mounting pressure.

And international divisions were also highlighted after the security council failed to reach a conclusion on Iraq's latest move after a marathon session on Saturday.

Long-term problems remain unresolved, though President Clinton's comments yesterday signalled a significant change in Washington's long-term strategy towards Iraq, placing increased emphasis on building up the anti-Saddam opposition while continuing to contain Iraq's military threat.

Calling for a new government in Baghdad, Mr Clinton pledged to implement the Iraq Liberation Act, passed by the Congress last month, under which the administration is authorised to equip, train and promote the Iraqi opposition, including providing military support.

The outcome is good news for Britain, which had hoped to keep Unscom in place, as opposed to some voices in the US administration which had argued that it had outlived its usefulness and served simply to allow Saddam to initiate provocations when it suited him.

Unscom was set up to certify that Iraq has done away with its weapons programmes, as required by the Security Council.

Its certification is required for the council to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

turn to page 2, column 1

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An Iraqi soldier practises for yesterday's Baghdad Day military show at the Saddam stadium in the country's capital PHOTOGRAPH: JOCKEL FINCK

Clinton's five demands

- All outstanding issues with the inspections must be resolved
- Inspectors must be allowed "unfettered access" to all sites they wish to visit – fast, no-notice, document-exploitation and unrestricted overflights authorities
- Iraq must accept all the resolutions relating to weapons of mass destruction
- Saddam must refrain from interfering with the independent professionalism of the United Nations Special Commission team



'This is no defeat – it's a great victory'

Ezz Said in Baghdad

IN downtown Baghdad they were crowding around newspaper kiosks yesterday for word that the threat of a massive air bombardment had, for the time being at least, been averted.

Iraqis expressed a mixture of relief and hope that sanctions would be lifted. "The people want to find out about the leadership's decisions and the conditions it is laying down to resume co-operation," a vendor said.

The message from the newspapers was more bullish. The decision by Saddam Hussein to allow arms inspectors back into Iraq was anything but a climbdown — on the contrary, it was a great victory.

The ruling Baath party newspaper, al-Thawra — Revolution — declared in a front-page editorial: "This leadership's decision pulled the rug from under the feet of the American administration, which has been used to distorting the facts and engineering excuses to commit aggression against it."

The paper added that "after this victory we should thank our steadfast people. Victory after victory until we overcome [the sanctions]."

That defiant line was echoed in Babel, Iraq's most influential newspaper, which accused US officials of being "killers, terrorists and fools". The Iraqi people viewed the threats as a "cruel joke".

Seated at Al-Zahawi cafe, Karim, a 26-year-old doctor, said Baghdad had pulled off a coup by managing to avoid US air strikes. But he slammed Arab countries which, he said, had been "informed of a strike in advance but did nothing to oppose it. Shame on the traitors, shame on the liars," he said.

Although relieved, he hadn't been scared of an attack. "To die in a bombardment is less painful than this slow death. I can't get hold of any medicine and I'm a doctor. So what about ordinary people?"

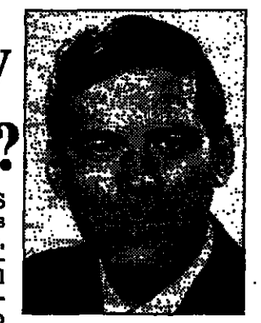
Engrossed in a newspaper at a nearby table, Kassem Aswad, 70, hoped the embargo would be lifted or at least eased after Iraq had agreed unconditionally to allow UN arms inspectors back into the country.

Ali Talal, a 68-year-old retired civil servant, said Iraq had "not backed down but responded favourably to calls from the UN secretary-general. We trust Kofi Annan to get the embargo lifted, because eight years should have been enough to search the whole of Asia".

In Baghdad's markets, traders went about their business. "I haven't heard the news and I don't want to know. In any case, a strike would not have been worse than the embargo," said a telephone merchant, while currency traders followed the ups and downs of the dinar against the dollar. *– AFP and agencies*

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Laureate stakes: Fanthorpe moves through the field


U A Fanthorpe: odds have shortened

Dan Glaister

THE 69-year-old poet U A Fanthorpe — Ursula to her friends — has moved up strongly in the field to be the next poet laureate. Her birthday poem for the Prince of Wales, published on the front page of the Guardian on Saturday, has brought her into serious contention for the post.

Where before she had been a 66-1 outsider, the interest generated by her 50th birthday tribute to Prince Charles has shortened her odds to 33-1. The new odds put her on an even footing with the somewhat better known Pam Ayres.

Graham Sharp of the bookmakers William Hill yesterday said: "Because of the initial response and as a result of the exposure she has received, we have decided to cut the odds from 66-1 to 33-1."

Fanthorpe now shifts to the forefront of the growing moves to appoint a woman to the post of poet laureate for the first time. Many observers feel that appointing a woman would address concerns that the position is outdated and merely honorary, and that it bears little relation to the real world.

Tony Blair, who is known to be keen to appoint a poet and not a pop star to the role, is thought to want to make the choice a "people's poet".

The Prime Minister makes the appointment after consulting literary bodies including the Royal Society of Literature, the Society of Authors, the Poetry Society and the Royal Literary Fund.

Michael Holroyd, chairman of the Royal Society of Literature, said yesterday: "I rather liked U A Fanthorpe's poem for Charles. She did a very difficult job. I think I've got the older volume of her poetry here." But he refused to reveal which names the RSL was considering recommending to the Prime Minister. "Our list at this stage is provisional. We have certainly got women on our list. We have also got men. The whole point that Downing Street is making is that there should be a decent interval. But I think you could definitely say that tension is mounting."

Fanthorpe, a teacher and hospital clerk before publishing her first volume of poetry in 1978, is one of several female poets considered to be serious contenders for the post. The favourite is Wendy Cope, who topped a Radio 4 poll for the position. Fanthorpe was the only other woman to make the top 10. James Fenton, who thwarted Fanthorpe's ambition to become Oxford's first female professor of poetry, was unplaced.

Cope made her debut in 1986 with Making Cocoa For Kingsley Amis. Several other women are in the running. They include the hard-hitting Carol Ann Duffy; Ruth Padel, the former nightclub singer who won last year's National Poetry Competition; and Lavinia Greenlaw, who was for a spell poet-in-residence at the Science Museum.

An appointment is expected early in the new year.

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In G2 Europe today: Opening eyes in Ireland: speaking the truth about child abuse

+ Dina Rabinovitch talks to Sarah Miles about lovers and drinking urine

'Christian' Tory leader disputes exclusivity of Blairite claim to moral high ground and projects more tolerant image for his party

Hague calls truce with the Church

Michael White
Political Editor

WILLIAM Hague will tonight signal a truce to end nearly 20 years of guerrilla warfare between the Conservative Party and the churches when he admits that Christians "should never hang back from being involved in politics".

Far from quarelling with Church leaders for being crypto-socialists, as Lady Thatcher and her allies frequently did, the Tory leader will use a speech on the eve of the Anglican General Synod to call for new co-operation — and to dispute Blairite claims to the spiritual high ground.

"No politician and no political party has a copyright on scripture," Mr Hague will say in a direct challenge to Tony Blair's active Christianity, which, the Labour leader once told the Sunday Telegraph, led him to reject Conservatism in favour of New Labourism.

The move comes as the Government's reform plans for the House of Lords threaten some of the 26 seats held by senior Anglican bishops because ministers want to broaden the composition of the upper house, including other churches and non-Christian faiths as well. The bishops welcome the move, but not at their expense.

Mr Hague's "listening to Britain" campaign is also meant to broaden his base, so that he wants to hear what non-Tories in the churches are saying, he will tell the Conservative Christan Fellowship tonight.

The 37-year-old opposition leader, who describes himself as a Christian who does not go to church every week — "like most of the country" — admits that it is a long time since the Church of England was "the Tory party at prayer" — though many active church-goers are also active in the party, he said last night.

"But I do recognise that sometimes people who have been in a leading role in the Church have found it very easy to embrace collectivist, leftwing solutions to problems and, I think, place too much faith in government intervention," Mr Hague said.

What he now wants to do, apart from "listening to churches in the inner city", is to encourage them to restore their historic role as a voluntary social agency. "We should be reasserting the faith of the Church and the importance of individuals taking action within the community. I want to redress the balance a little."

In urging the churches to stand up for family values — "the Church should stick up for marriage, it should show that we take it extremely seriously," he says — Mr Hague knows he is treading on thin ice, not least because of his widely publicised cohabitation with his wife before they married.

Interviewed on ITV's Sunday Night, Mr Hague explained: "We have to recognise that most people in the country think that it is sensible to know each other very well, in many cases to live together, before they get married. Now that's not incompatible with what Christians believe."

He repeated what he has said before in his drive to make the Tories seem less judgmental about personal morality, including divorce and gay sexuality. Living together, as he and his wife, Ffion, did before their marriage, was not "going against what Christians believe, particularly when it's people who are engaged to be married, who are going to be married, who are so clearly committed to each other".

"What churches have really been arguing against, or what I see Christianity being opposed to, is promiscuity and people entering into intimate relationships with no intention of carrying them on," he said. "Well, that certainly can't be said of the position I was in with my then-fiancée. So I've never had any qualms about that," Mr Hague insisted.

Some Church leaders will take issue with that, as will the Daily Mail. But Mr Hague is trying to re-connect his shattered party with a younger electorate still in thrall to Mr Blair, whose Christian credentials are not disputed even by his enemies.

The Prime Minister takes a more traditional view of charity than Lord Tebbit, who once argued that the Good Samaritan could be of help to the biblical robbery victim only because he had the money to take him to a decent hotel for a wash and brush-up.

● A measure of the changing public mood came yesterday when Francis Maude, the highly traditional shadow chancellor in the Hague team, confirmed that he and his sisters had helped to nurse their brother, Charles, who died of Aids-related illnesses in 1993 after being HIV-positive for seven years.

Job fears over £1.5bn new deal for Rover

David Gow
Industrial Editor

ROVER, the loss-making car firm, is poised this week to unveil a radical productivity deal with union leaders that will bring continental-style working practices to its main British plants and trigger up to £1.5 billion investment at the threatened Longbridge factory near Birmingham.

But the price of the deal, designed to save Rover £150 million a year, is likely to be further large-scale job cuts among the 38,000-strong workforce, and unions fear it will lead to a pay freeze.

Union officials have warned that BMW's plans could mean up to 5,000 job losses at Rover, mainly among the 18,000-strong workforce at Longbridge. But company spokesmen insisted last night that they had no specific numbers in mind. Local Labour MPs said the key issue was to secure a huge injection of capital through new flexible working patterns rather than job cuts and to end acute uncertainty across the car group.

Rover is said to be heading for losses of more than £500 million this year as its UK market share has slumped to below 7 per cent and its overseas sales have been hit by the strong pound. It has already put its plants on a four-day week and investment has dried up.

Union agreement, expected as early as Wednesday, would enable the board at BMW, Rover's German owners, to apply to the Government for around £200 million in aid to help finance its rescue plan for Longbridge.

This is where the new Mini, the MG sports car, and a new medium-size car are to be built.

The core of the pending deal is a "working time contract" under which production staff would agree to work a set number of hours a year. They would "bank up" extra hours on the assembly line during peak periods of production, which could then be taken as longer holidays later in the year.

Rover would make substantial savings because the extra hours would no longer qualify for overtime premiums. But the car firm would also gain more efficient use of capital investment as staff would be required to treat Saturday as a normal working day — without earning extra bonuses.

Union sources said the new working practices, common in all BMW's German plants, had met fierce resistance, notably from shop stewards. "But the negotiators have recognised that unless there's change the future of Longbridge will remain clouded."



The Rover production line at Longbridge . . . insiders say that without a deal, the plant's future is under threat

The sources added: "They also know there is a powerful anti-Rover group on the BMW board which has wanted to pull the plug and so they have been willing to meet most, if not all, of the company's demands. The main concern has been to keep in place the current agreement that there will be no compulsory redundancies."

There are fears in some union circles that, apart from losing overtime bonuses, workers could soon be faced with an effective pay freeze.

But company insiders said that a 3.5 per cent pay rise had just been implemented and "we are not talking about cuts in the basic wage, which on average is £16,000 a year".

They insisted that BMW had so far made no request to the Government for state subsidy to modernise Longbridge but would do so once any deal on flexible working was in place and approved by both the workforce in a ballot and by the BMW parent board.

"Large parts of the 400-acre site at Longbridge are around 100 years old and will have to be cleared to make way for the new assembly lines. We are planning to invest £1.5 billion over the next few years and that's on top of the £2.5 billion already injected into Rover since BMW took it over in late 1994," the sources said.

Bernd Pischetsrieder, BMW chairman, has urged that a deal should be in place by the end of this month, warning that Longbridge will otherwise be wound down. The two sides will meet later today with negotiations said to be at a "delicate" stage.

"The new working practices will apply across all our plants, not just at Longbridge. But without a deal, Longbridge will be under serious threat," company insiders said.

Power of Berg lucidly caught

Review

Andrew Clements

Wozzeck
Royal Festival Hall

THE Philharmonia's concert performance of Berg's masterpiece, conducted by the orchestra's chief conductor Christoph von Dohnanyi, was the first event in their Mahler and Vienna series. But there does not need to be any invented reason to programme what is arguably the greatest opera of our century.

Played straight through, without intervals and without any theatrical trappings, Wozzeck's power, its taut economy and pitiless concentration on the fates of its protagonists, are unblinkingly exposed. Büchner's play and Berg's treatment of it are welded seamlessly, and in a performance as scrupulously prepared as this their shared compassion becomes overwhelming.

Dohnanyi is a superb Berg conductor. The military band offstage and the tavern dances were perfectly integrated, and the Viennese rhythms and lilts that thread through the score were pointed up without ever over-egging their sentimentality, so that the music was constantly poised between the expressionism and the nostalgia that make up the essence of the composer.

The orchestral interludes between the scenes naturally unleashed the full emotional power and in the third act became almost unbearable — the huge climax on a single note that follows Wozzeck's murder of Marie seemed to compress the whole tragedy into a single gesture; the famous D minor interlude that follows Wozzeck's own death crystallised all its pathos.

The Philharmonia responded superbly to everything Dohnanyi asked of them.

There was a first-rate cast. In the title role Franz Hawlata sang the part much more than some interpreters, never descending to self-pity or histrionics. As Marie, Deborah Polaski was able to demonstrate her ability to sing with sheer beauty.

Alan Woodrow sang forcefully as the Drum Major; Nadja Michael was an earthy Marget, Peter Bronder a suitably bemused Andres, Eric Halfvarson a reptilian Doctor. Graham Clark brought the real tang of the opera house to the part of the Captain, larger than life yet adrift in his way just as much as Wozzeck himself.

Saddam is told: One false move and we will strike

continued from page 1

Mr Blair said: "We know from our long experience that Saddam Hussein is not a person we can trust.

"They have given all these further assurances during the night but I repeat it is not over yet.

"Every single bit of it has to be bolted down and we will make a judgment about that before we proceed."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, postponed a trip that he had planned to Saudi Arabia and Egypt today because the situation in the region was so fluid.

Mr Cook and the Prime Minister had worked through Saturday night on the crisis, with Mr Blair making eight telephone calls to President Clinton and his colleagues in 18 hours.

Both governments made clear that their military pressure would be maintained to ensure compliance with the undertakings given by President Saddam.

The US continued to dispatch more fighter jets, bombers, surveillance and support aircraft to the region — further strengthening a force expected to reach about 400 aircraft by the end of November.

Ten F-117 stealth fighters arrived in Kuwait yesterday from New Mexico. Two more will follow later.

Among other planes arriving in the region yesterday were six B-1 bombers with their support personnel and surveillance planes.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that British troops would remain in the Gulf in a state of readiness until it was clear that the United Nations weapons inspectors were being allowed to carry out their work fully.

Zoo owner Aspinall in battle with cancer

Will Woodward

THE millionaire animal park owner and former Referendum Party candidate, John Aspinall, is "very ill" in hospital suffering from cancer, a friend said last night.

The 72-year-old zoologist and casino owner admitted in a television interview to be screened this week that he was "close to death" and added: "I probably won't live very long."

A colleague at Port Lympne animal park near Hythe, Kent, said last night: "Mr Aspinall is very ill. He is not up to speaking to anyone at the moment."

It had been reported that Mr Aspinall has secretly battled with leukaemia for five years but had shunned conventional nursing.



John Aspinall: animal bonding belief PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK COX

Mr Aspinall was a close friend of both Lord Lucan and the late Sir James Goldsmith, who was his partner in the gaming clubs which helped to pay the running costs of his two loss-making zoo parks — Port Lympne, and Howletts near Canterbury. The parks, world leaders in the conservation of endangered species, have been shrouded in controversy over the killing of three keepers by tigers.

In November 1996, Mr Aspinall won a High Court case to allow keepers to enter the enclosures of freely roaming tigers to bond with them. In May of that year, a boy was awarded £132,000 because his arm was ripped off by a chimpanzee at Port Lympne in 1989.

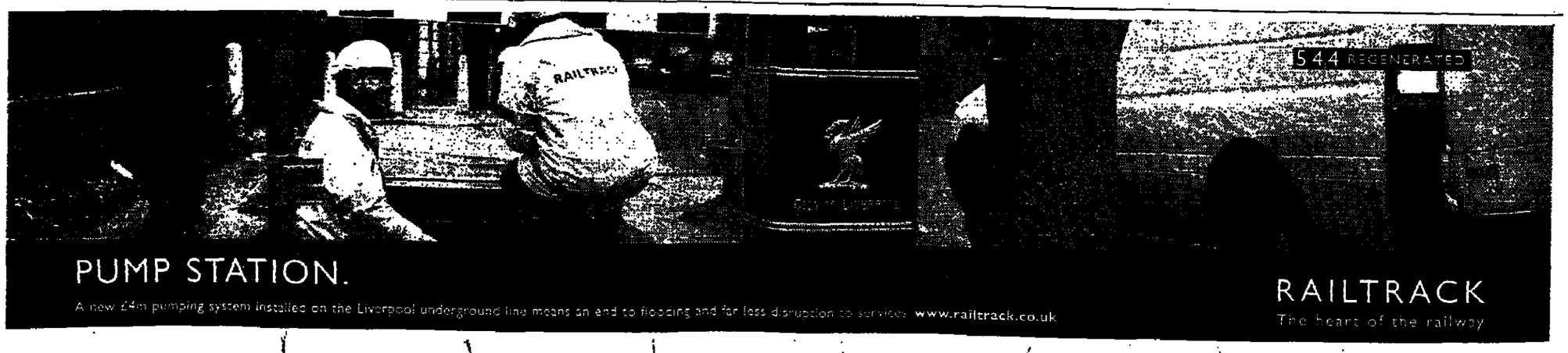
In a recent interview, to be shown on Meridian television tomorrow, Mr Aspinall wore a patch over his left eye and was visibly suffering from cancer.

"I have never been able to afford anything in my life," he said. "I just take plunges and hope the gods smile on me later. They always have. Until now. Now I have to smile on my own. I'm not very well at the moment. I probably won't live very long. And they [my family] will be landed with something that loses, at the moment, £2.5 million."

But he said he would leave shares in his gambling clubs and casinos to finance the zoos.

"A lot of money has been spent by me doing construction while I am alive which wouldn't happen if I was dead. At least all is paid for. I won't leave the organisation any debts."

Mr Aspinall stood for the Referendum Party against the then home secretary, Michael Howard, in Folkestone and Hythe at the last general election. He achieved one of the party's best results — 4,188 votes, 8 per cent of the poll.



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Bishop Neville Chamberlain: 'urged priest to go'



Miriam Byrne (centre) with parishioners at St Paul's, Dundee. The two months since her appointment have been turbulent

A Scottish cathedral is in the thick of an unholy row over its female incumbent, writes **Gerard Seenan**

Knives out for first woman provost

FROM the beginning it was always going to be a difficult job. But for a twice-married former Roman Catholic nun, the mantle of being arguably Britain's most senior Anglican woman priest is proving to be more arduous than she could ever have imagined.

Only two months after her appointment, Miriam Byrne, aged 52, is facing down calls for her resignation from the church committee thas presided over her installation.

Some parishioners at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, have dubbed her Attila the Nun, accusing her of overcompensating in her role as a "woman in a man's job".

Worse still, a petition was yesterday circulating among her flock calling for the reinstatement of her predecessor, Michael Bunce, who was forced to resign after embezzling £44,000 from a company he set up to help the unemployed.

Despite this disgrace, to some sections of the highly conservative congregation at St Paul's, Dr Bunce retains one advantage over Ms Byrne: he is a man.

"She is a woman doing a man's job and is over-compensating because of that. She is dictatorial and does not care what other people think.

"She is throwing her weight about in a way no man would dream of," said one member of the congregation.

In September, when Ms Byrne was appointed by the Scottish Episcopal Church as provost of St Paul's, she became the first woman priest in Britain to take control of an Anglican cathedral.

From the outset, her appointment was overshadowed by controversy and the traditionalist attitudes of some sections of her relatively small congregation.

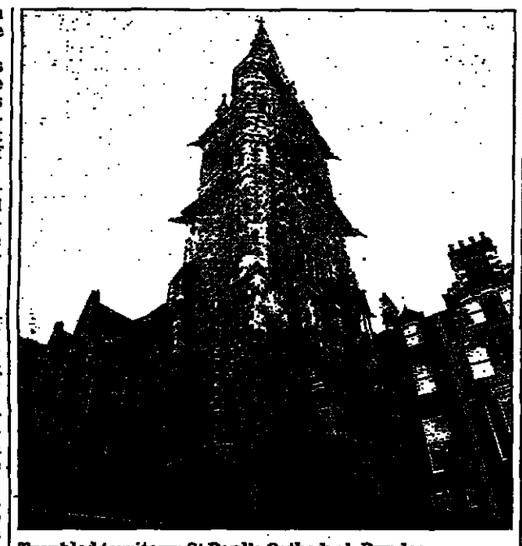
When news of Ms Byrne's appointment broke, George Greig, the cathedral's honorary chaplain for 13 years, resigned. He took with him around a dozen members of the congregation.

Another faction who continue to attend St Paul's refuse to take communion when Ms Byrne is conducting the service.

Over the last two months, relations between Ms Byrne and church office holders have become increasingly fraught.

Now all 12 members of the vestry committee that appointed her have written to the local bishop asking for her resignation under a canon associated with pastoral breakdown.

Bruce Cameron, the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, has been called in to mediate on the dispute.



Troubled territory: St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee

The congregation at St Paul's was offered a brief explanation of the dispute at services yesterday as prayers were offered for Ms Byrne. But outside the cathedral the cracks in the disunited church were evident.

"The church is now empty. There used to be easily 100 at the 11am service and now there are only 30 or 25. It is a big tragedy," said Sheila Wilkinson, a life-long member of St Paul's, who is one of those calling for the reinstatement of Dr Bunce.

Although Mrs Wilkinson claims that attendance at both church and Sunday school have dropped dramatically, there are still some at St Paul's who are prepared to speak up for Ms Byrne.

"A lot of people in this church support Miriam. It is just a very small group who want her to resign," said church member Elaine Runcieman.

The church hierarchy had hoped the appointment of Ms Byrne would bring a degree of tranquillity to the troubled congregation at St Paul's.

The five-week trial which eventually led to the conviction of Dr Bunce had been embarrassing for the Scottish Episcopal Church — and for St Paul's.

Details of how Ms Byrne's predecessor had taken flying lessons, driven expensive cars and bought ponies for his children, using funds embezzled from a training company he had set up to help the unemployed, made lurid headlines in the Scottish press. This new controversy will only add the to the church's woes.

Although precise accounts of how Ms Byrne has earned her Attila the Nun moniker and her reputation for "Thatcher-like decision-making" are not readily forthcoming, there is a dedicated corps in the congregation who are intent on seeing her leave before Christmas.

It is also claimed that the Bishop of Brechin, Neville Chamberlain, has asked her to consider leaving the church.

But there are some members of the church who say Ms Byrne is merely the victim of traditionalist intolerance.

She came to St Paul's on a convoluted route.

She began her religious life as a nun with the Vocation Sisters — but, although she spent seven years with the order, she never took her final vows and eventually she left the convent to get married to former monk.

They divorced 18 years later, and Ms Byrne married again to a university librarian. She later returned to the religious life, working her way up to her present position.

Ms Byrne says that she would like to speak about the calls for her resignation, but as the matter is in effect sub judice, she cannot.

Dr Cameron was unavailable for comment, and a spokesman for the Scottish Episcopal Church would confirm only that there was a disagreement between Ms Byrne and her congregation.

For the traditionalists, the provost of St Paul's was always going to be a difficult job for a woman to fill. But, for a woman with a past and strident views to boot, it may simply be beyond the pastoral pale.

Ashdown hit by backlash over deal with Blair

Michael White
Political Editor

PADDY Ashdown faces the costly and divisive prospect of a special Liberal Democrat conference in the new year if he fails to persuade his party's federal executive that he has not "sold out" to Tony Blair when they confront him at Westminster tonight.

Even friends and allies are uncertain which way such a conference would vote if given the chance to pronounce on last week's commitment to a "widening and deepening" of the joint consultative committee which Mr Ashdown set up with Mr Blair in July 1997 after Labour's landslide election victory.

What became clear last night was that both sides want the issue resolved quickly, well before the Liberal Democrats' spring conference in Edinburgh in March. It is intended to provide the party with a springboard for a clutch of important elections — for Europe, Wales, Scotland and hundreds of vulnerable council seats, all to be contested in May and June.

Simon Hughes, MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey and one of only two of the 46 Lib Dem MPs to vote against the latest Ashdown-Blair compact at a private meeting in the Commons last week, ruled out the prospect of using the dispute to challenge for the leadership.

"Sometimes leaders have to be contained rather than deposed," he said on LWT's Crosstalk programme after making clear that, if required by his colleagues to co-operate as health spokesman on common policies agreed with Frank Dobson, he would do so. But Mr Hughes is unhappy and thinks his leader has seriously blundered.

The Lib Dem leader caught most of his parliamentary colleagues and all his grassroots supporters by surprise when Downing Street issued a joint statement, agreed with Mr Blair, last Wednesday.

A small *ad hoc* group called the Campaign for Liberal Democracy is raising the standard of revolt on the Internet, though disquiet is much wider. A critical motion was passed by West Country Lib Dems on Saturday.

Speaking on Radio 4's The World This Weekend yesterday, Mr Ashdown was unapologetic: if Westminster eventually got proportional representation, it would mean that coalition governments in the European style would become commonplace.

Mr Ashdown's allies and critics believe he will obtain a majority on the federal executive tonight, buoyed by the knowledge that Mr Blair has delivered on the shared agenda of constitutional reform – even if PR for next June's Euro-elections is now bogged down in a dangerous stand-off with the Lords.

But they also know that party rules require the signatures of only 200 conference delegates to trigger a special one-day conference in January. "There's a lot of concern that we may not have extracted a high enough price for our co-operation with Labour," one senior Lib Dem conceded last night.

An MP commented: "This is Paddy's worst misjudgment in terms of what the party will take and he will not be allowed to make another one."

Crucial meeting tonight may not be enough to head off call for more action

The alternative threat to a special conference is a special ballot. That too would be risky and divisive.

In theory the two leaders are looking for practical and specific areas of policy formation where they could learn the habits of co-operation, ready for the PR world they hope will come. But critics such as Mr Hughes, who fear the party will lose votes as well as its identity this way, are asking about the mechanics of the new idea.

Do they require him to go to the Heath Secretary and find common ground to report back — or take ideas from his health team to Mr Dobson for negotiation, Mr Hughes is asking colleagues. Across the field of social policy, including welfare and education, there will be similar problems.

Mr Ashdown says demanding PR and then rejecting co-operation is illogical.

"I believe we can assemble a progressive liberal centre in this country, we can put together a movement of parties that can work together," he said yesterday.

"That will be the dominant governing force of our time and I want Liberal Democrats to be in that rather than standing at the side acting as critics."

Mersey police chief denies Hillsborough claims

David Ward

THE new chief constable of Merseyside insisted yesterday that claims that he had acted as spin doctor for the troubled South Yorkshire force after the Hillsborough disaster were "simply not true".

"There is nothing I need to be forgiven for," said Malcolm Bettison, who begins his new job today after five weeks of bitter controversy over his appointment. "There is only ambiguity and speculation."

Mr Bettison said bluntly that allegations that he had conspired in a campaign of black propaganda to protect the force were wrong.

"People are commenting about me but no one knows me," he added. "The more time has gone between my appointment and taking up the post, the more I have wanted to get to Merseyside to lay the ghost."

He appealed to the families of the 96 fans who died on the terraces in Sheffield when Liverpool played Nottingham Forest in April 1989 to meet him for talks. The invitation was last night dismissed as a public relations stunt by Phil Hammond, whose 14-year-old son died at Hillsborough.

Mr Bettison said he understood how angry the families must be that no individuals had been convicted of any offence or held to account formally before a court for their role at the match.

"While understanding that residual anger and frustration, I had no idea until October 13, when I was appointed, that any of that could be or would be focused on me. It is certainly unjustified and I want the opportunity to show the families as quickly as possible how unjustified that is."

The families bitterly criticised the Merseyside Police Authority for unanimously appointing Mr Bettison.

The protests were based on claims made in the Commons in May by Maria Eagle, MP for Garston, that South Yorkshire police had set up a unit to practise "historical revisionism" after the disaster and named Mr Bettison as a member of it.

"I have felt a growing sense of frustration that all that has been in the public domain is speculation and rumour, born of the statement Maria Eagle made," he said. "She made that statement with parliamentary privilege. She has never repeated any of the allegations that were linked to my name. Any evidence that might have substantiated what she said has not been forthcoming. I know that, because there isn't any evidence to substantiate those allegations.

"I cannot make it any clearer than this: those allegations are simply not true."

Ms Eagle and Mr Bettison met last week. She said she was impressed by his openness and he agreed that she was interested only in a search for truth.

Mr Bettison said the South Yorkshire force had been "turned topsy-turvy" by Hillsborough. His role in its aftermath had been primarily concerned with reviewing policies and practices on policing major events and dealing with disasters.

Mr Bettison, aged 42 and the son of a steelworker, rose through the ranks after joining the former Sheffield force at 16. After joining an accelerated promotion programme, he studied psychology and philosophy at Oxford.



Malcolm Bettison: 'Nothing I need to be forgiven for'

Beer prices cut in seasonal price war

Sue Quinn

IN THE kind of price war that consumers can normally only dream about, Sainsbury's is set to slash the price of some French beer to 20p a bottle in an effort to lure business away from cross-Channel "booze cruises".

The supermarket chain intends to cut the price of lager and other goods to persuade shoppers there is no need for the traditional "beer run" to Calais in the run-up to the festive season. There are signs already that the move will lead to a price-cutting battle between the supermarkets.

Sainsbury's decision will see £2 cut from the price of a pack of 25cl Biere de Moulins lagers. At £5.99, the 30-bottle pack will still be more expensive than in France, but the supermarket says it will make cross-Channel shoppers think twice. Small bottles or "stubbies" of continental beer can be bought for as little as 16p in France, a negligible saving when the cost of getting there is taken into account, according to Sainsbury's.

It is backing its cheaper alcohol campaign with price cuts on turkeys and other festive foods. A spokesman said: "We are trying to show that people do not have to go to France to stock up for Christmas. Once they have paid for petrol, the ferry and everything else, they may as well stay here."

Other supermarkets intend to mirror Sainsbury's campaign. Asda is believed to be ready to offer vintage Dom Perignon champagne for £49.99 – a saving of £20.00

Cross-Channel sales are estimated to account for 17 per cent of the beer consumed in British homes.

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The Iraq crisis

The decisions taken by the Iraqi leadership and joint efforts of diplomacy... have allowed a way to end this worrying crisis
Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov

With the bombers in the air, word came of a climbdown

How the drama unfolded:
Clinton went to bed expecting to hear of a missile attack. He was woken to different news

Martin Kettle in Washington, Michael White and Ian Black

THE massive American B-52 bombers, the largest and most destructive warplanes on the planet, took off from Diego Garcia while President Bill Clinton was trying to snatch an hour's sleep in Washington in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Armed with missiles carrying 2,000lb warheads and protected by fighter planes, the bombers began their long flight from the British island base in the Indian Ocean just as the sun was coming up over Baghdad, 3,000 miles to the north.

As the B-52s flew northwards across the ocean, warships of the US Gulf Fleet prepared to launch their own batteries of Tomahawk cruise missiles on targets deep in Iraq. On the aircraft carrier Dwight D Eisenhower, jet fighters were being readied to take to the air on bombing raids against Baghdad's air defence systems.

At bases in Qatar and Oman, US fighter planes were prepared for combat missions. In Kuwait, F-117 stealth fighter bombers were scheduled for a late afternoon takeoff on precision bombing missions. Refuelling aircraft were on the runways at the Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia.

By early evening on Saturday, Baghdad time, the US forces — 170 aircraft and 14 warships — were primed to deliver the largest military assault on Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war, beginning what officials described as a "rolling campaign" against Saddam Hussein's military bases, communications centres and the factories in which the Iraqi leader has continued to manufacture and stockpile chemical and biological weaponry.

"You're not talking about a strike," a Pentagon official told the press in Washington on Friday. "You're talking about a sustained campaign."

In the White House, Mr Clinton had issued the orders late on Friday, after a report from his national security adviser, Sandy Berger, and his top military adviser, General Henry Shelton. As he tried to snatch a brief rest from the intense discussions and planning, Mr Clinton expected to wake to the news that the missiles had gone in.

Instead, some time in the early hours of Saturday morning, Washington time, Mr Clinton was woken to receive a different report. Events had taken an unexpected turn. As the B-52s headed through the skies towards Baghdad, President Saddam had authorised a letter to be sent to the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, in New York, pledging that Iraq would allow the resumption of UN weapons inspections — the issue that had triggered the crisis. Mr Clinton spoke by phone to Mr Annan, and then to Tony Blair, as he had done throughout the crisis. Mr Clinton and Mr Berger decided Mr Annan's version of what the letter contained had to be taken seriously. Mr Clinton issued a new order, putting the attacks on hold. Somewhere over the Arabian Sea, the B-52s began to wheel back towards Diego Garcia.

In a capital primed for military action, it was hard to know whether the news came as a relief or a frustration. In truth, probably both, as officials began once more to scrutinise the fine print of President Saddam's latest escape.

The text of the letter arrived in Washington in the mid-morning, two hours after the bombers had been called back to base. As Mr Clinton and his advisers pored over the missive, signed by the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, they concluded that the supposed retreat was much less clear than Mr Annan had implied. There was anger against Mr Annan, who is seen by the more hawkish members of the administration as too compliant with Iraq in such crises.

The problem was that the annex to the letter, which appeared to put forward conditions for Baghdad's co-operation, fell significantly short of the unequivocal retreat that Mr Berger and the US defence secretary, Bill Cohen, were urging Mr Clinton to insist on.

Another call from Mr Clinton to Mr Blair followed. As the news of the military stand-down began to circulate at the UN in New York, the British and the Americans saw themselves beginning to lose control of the plot. France and Russia, who on Friday had maintained squarely that Baghdad was responsible for the rapidly escalating crisis, both began to hint that the letter showed President Saddam's readiness to step back from a conflict.

"We were immediately suspicious because the letter was two pages with a two-page annex," said a Foreign Office official in London yesterday. "All it needed to say was that Iraq was complying immediately, unconditionally and fully. But there was a lot of verbiage. And that had to be cut through. We wanted to know whether these were conditions or aspirations."

It was a situation some at the White House had foreseen, as the US and the British began to make hard and fast plans for military action against Iraq late in October. Some of Mr Clinton's officials urged him to press ahead with strikes last week, to avoid the kind of entanglement that was now developing, with the US moving massive forces to the Gulf at the cost of more than $900 million, only to have to bring them back again at the last minute. Mr Clinton rejected that advice, wanting more warships and planes in place before the attack, and nominating Saturday as his preferred date.

For 24 hours, it was the transatlantic influence dream come true for British diplomats, who had their closest and most intensive contacts with US decision-making in years. The Americans, of course, made all the key decisions, since they were planning to launch all the assaults; British planes were to remain on the ground, mainly in Kuwait, during yesterday's missions. But Britain had a key role to play in "internationalising" the action, and in ensuring European agreement.

As well as speaking eight times with Mr Clinton, Mr Blair also rang his European Union allies, including the German chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, and President Jacques Chirac of France. Spain's prime minister, José María Aznar, Viktor Klima of Austria, and Italy's new prime minister, Massimo D'Alema, were also signed up.

Mr Schröder, the new kid on the block, was keen to be helpful. That may have restrained Mr Chirac, twitchy about the Bonn-Paris axis since Helmut Kohl's defeat. But there were larger reasons why France and the other two important sceptics on the UN Security Council, Russia and China, were less inclined to warn against military action than in the past.

In February, during the last Iraq crisis, the three powers had laid great store by Mr Annan's deal to give Unscom, the UN Special Commission, access to Iraqi weapons sites. President Saddam's failure to stand by that agreement made it harder to protest.

Military and intelligence liaison remained close between Washington and London, with special emphasis on the co-ordination of public positions, most strikingly on Friday in simultaneous statements by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Clinton which rejected the first signs of an Iraqi climbdown.

In Washington on Saturday, Mr Berger and the national security team met in continuous session in the White House situation room. Consulting with London, they agreed to co-ordinate the political response. Mr Blair was to say in London that the letter did not go far enough, while Mr Berger went downstairs to the White House briefing room to deliver the same message.

"The Iraqi letter sent today to general secretary Annan was neither unequivocal nor unconditional. It is unacceptable," he announced. "This will only set up a new crisis a few weeks down the road when the review does not meet Iraq's criteria." The letter, he said, contained "more holes than Swiss cheese".

Mr Berger then delivered the key message, certain that it would be instantly understood in Baghdad: "We were poised to take military action, and we remain poised to take military action."

The remarks had the desired effect. Less than an hour later, Nizar Hamdoon, the urbane Iraqi ambassador to the UN, emerged from his office to divorce the contents of the annex from the letter. The attachment consisted only of "talking points", he indicated. Iraq accepted that Mr Aziz's letter was the document that embodied the official position, and it was "unconditional and unequivocal".

Later on Saturday evening Mr Hamdoon put it in writing. Even then, the British and Americans pressed for a more authoritative signature. Two further letters clarified the Iraqi climbdown.

It was these letters, Mr Clinton said yesterday, that tipped the balance. Addressing the press, the president said the three letters had showed, first, that the annex was not a condition of its acceptance of UN demands; second, that the letters explicitly revoked the two Iraqi suspensions of co-operation with the Unscom inspectors; and third, that future co-operation with Unscom would be "unconditional and complete".

"Iraq has backed down, but that is not enough," Mr Clinton concluded.

Both in Washington and in Whitehall, no one was rejoicing last night, certain that the crisis is likely to be replayed in months if not weeks, just as it was when Mr Annan's intervention averted air strikes in February.

"We will have to march the soldiers back up the hill in three months' time," said Tim Trevan, a former Unscom official. "I doubt whether this will last until January."

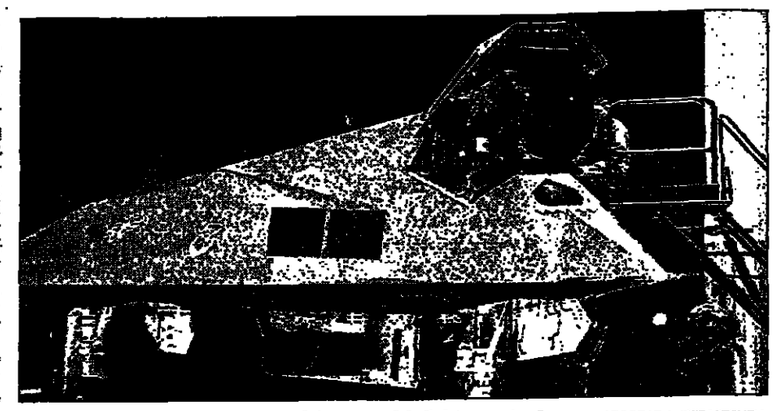
Washington and London will now be urging Unscom to mount highly intrusive inspections, not just for days after its return, but for weeks and months. Since they stopped on October 31, no one doubts that the Iraqis will have removed and concealed both weapons and documents in their endless game of cat and mouse with the United Nations.

The countdown

Friday, November 13
1300 - Tony Blair issues authority in principle for the use of British forces against Iraq.
That night, Mr Blair and President Clinton have a "lengthy" telephone conversation of more than an hour, to finalise attack plans.

Saturday November 14
0938 - Waves of B-52 USAF bombers take off from Barksdale, Louisiana, heading for the Gulf, carrying air-launch cruise missiles. Eight US Navy vessels in the region stand ready to fire hundreds of Tomahawk sea-launch cruise missiles.
1000 - Mr Blair issues formal authority for the use of RAF Tornados stationed in Iraq to fly bombing runs inside Iraq.
1400 (approx) - RAF Tornados are stood down, after it becomes clear that Iraq has tabled an offer it describes as "unconditional".
Diplomats and officials liaise closely with the White House in a period of frenetic activity.
1500 - Iraq's offer to allow Unscom weapons inspectors becomes public.
1530 - Downing Street statues give first reaction to the Iraqi offer, saying compliance must be full and unconditional.
2030 - Mr Blair comes out into Downing Street to give his first response to the offer, as the UN Security Council begins its deliberations.
2249 - The White House rejects "unacceptable" Iraqi offer.
2300 - Almost-constant telephone contact between White House and Downing Street.

Sunday November 15
0500 to 0700 - Mr Blair sleeps. In the last 16 hours he has had six telephone conversations with Mr Clinton.
1120 - Prime Minister's official spokesman discloses details of planned UK involvement in bombing raids on Iraq. Tornados would have fulfilled 20 per cent of the planned strike operations, he says.
1245 - Mr Blair announces the crisis is not over and that UK forces are ready to strike Iraq without warning until compliance is guaranteed and delivered.


A US pilot climbs into a Gulf-bound F-117 stealth fighter yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MITCHELL

Putting the accent on the positive

Reaction:
Sighs of relief were prevalent, report **Stuart Millar** and **David Sharrock**

INTERNATIONAL reaction to Iraq's last-minute climbdown remained upbeat yesterday despite the continuing hardline stance from Washington and London.

In the Middle East, Arab leaders breathed a collective sigh of relief after the immediate threat of air strikes appeared to have been lifted.

"The settlement of the crisis is not a question now. This is a positive step," said Esmat Abdel-Meguid, secretary-general of the 22-member Cairo-based Arab League.

"Iraq has stressed there are no conditions in the letter to Kofi Annan. We seek to clarify this to the parties which have expressed reservation." The Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Moussa, said: "Now we are not talking about military strikes. We are talking about an exchange of views and letters and commitments. So we must give this process a chance. I believe this is a very important opening and the problem we hope will be defused."

After a two-day meeting of foreign ministers, Gulf Arab states also said they now did not expect Iraq would be "subjected to harm" as a result of the crisis.

That was borne out by the positive response from UN officials and permanent members of the Security Council to Saddam's offer of compliance.

The Russian government, which had evacuated 100 citizens from Baghdad as air strikes appeared inevitable, was the most confident that the need for military action had passed.

While the defence minister, Igor Sergeyev, on a visit to Syria, said air strikes would be counter-productive, the foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, said there were now good prospects for a political settlement.

Speaking after talks with the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, in Kuala Lumpur, he said: "The decisions taken by the Iraqi leadership and joint efforts of diplomacy have allowed a way to open an end to this worrying crisis."

Other permanent members were more guarded. The French president, Jacques Chirac, who is touring Central America, held a three-way conversation with Bill Clinton and Tony Blair on Saturday to evaluate Iraq's offer of compliance.

French officials said Paris saw Iraq's letter in a more positive light than Washington. Although keen to avoid a split among Security Council members, the French authorities believe that if air strikes do go ahead, it will destroy the possibility of weapons inspectors being allowed back into Iraq.

China called for further diplomatic and political efforts to resolve the crisis. "We hope the Iraqi side will honour its pledges and sincerely implement all relevent Security Council resolutions," said foreign ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang.

"We also call on all relevant parties to continue political and diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis as soon as possible."

The reaction from Germany was also positive. The foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, said yesterday he hoped Iraq's offer could solve the current crisis — but added that it would have to be studied carefully.

In a shorter than usual weekly address from the Vatican, the Pope said he had prayed for the key figures involved in the crisis, asking God to "illuminate their hearts and minds".

But with most Arab opinion-formers still convinced that Washington will settle for nothing less than removal of Saddam and a new Iraqi order in the short to medium term, few held out much hope that the US confrontation with Iraq would go away for very long.

"My advice would be for Saddam to open everything for inspection immediately and not provide the US with an excuse to do what it really wants and get rid of him," said a senior Jordanian, speaking under condition of anonymity.

"The sooner that sanctions are lifted the better, because only that will give Iraq the chance for real change. America does not understand Iraq. Eight years ago they thought they had finished with the problem but Saddam is still there. Bush isn't and Thatcher isn't. How does he survive? Discipline."

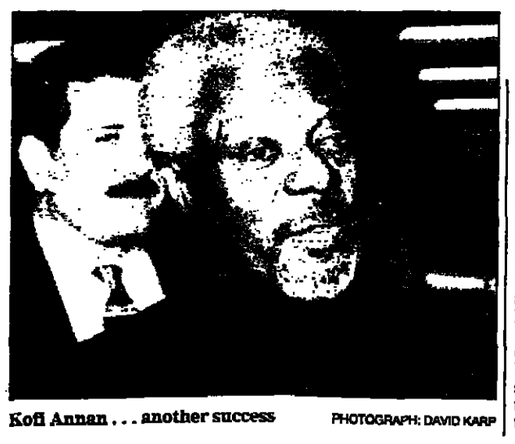
The continuing tension prompted Saudi Arabia's defence minister, Prince Sultan, to announce that the kingdom would not allow its territory and military bases — where up to 5,000 US troops and some 100 warplanes are stationed — to be used to launch strikes against Iraq.


A British airman checks a Tornado in Kuwait yesterday, as Bill Clinton and Tony Blair (right) remained sceptical




MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: GUSTAVO FERRARI

How the UN Secretary-General made war impossible


Kofi Annan... another success PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID KARP

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

IF there was one moment when the Iraq crisis started heading for a peaceful solution, it was on Saturday afternoon when the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, announced on CNN that, as far as he was concerned, Saddam Hussein had backed down.

The world's diplomat-in-chief thus served notice to both Washington and London, still deeply sceptical about the Iraqi leader's intentions, that the war clouds were dispersing. At that point, it would gave been very hard to send in the bombers.

Mr Annan was in Morocco when the crisis entered its most dangerous stage last Wednesday with the decision to pull out all UN weapons inspectors — widely seen as the prelude to American-led air strikes.

He then issued what was billed as a "personal appeal" to President Saddam to return to full compliance with international demands or accept the inevitability of military action.

"That was the last shot in the locker," one key diplomat said at the time. "Now there isn't that much left." So on the face of it, the softly spoken Ghanaian had been relegated to the sidelines when he flew back to New York on Thursday. The US and Britain had already made clear they did want him to go back to Baghdad, where his 11th-hour deal averted military action in February.

But in the dramatic 24 hours between Friday and Saturday afternoons, Mr Annan returned to centre stage. By publicly welcoming Iraq's climbdown, he reasserted the role of the UN in this crisis — and highlighted the permanent tension between his role as a sort of secular pope and the servant of the security council, the UN's "top table".

His remarks on Saturday were quickly echoed by France, Russia, China and Arab states who had feared a Western strike on Iraq could destabilise both the country and the region.

The US and Britain were furious. In London, officials suggested Mr Annan may have made a slip of the tongue under pressure, though some saw a deliberate attempt to divert the hawks by backing Baghdad. Mr Annan later remained silent as the security council discussed Iraq's response and the two subsequent clarifications that were added to it. But he made no secret of his personal hope for a diplomatic solution. UN officials expressed dismay that military action seemed imminent.

Ironically, Mr Annan is the most pro-American secretary-general ever and was Washington's clear favourite when he succeeded the haughty Boutros Boutros Ghali last year. A UN official for 30 years, he seemed a gifted bureaucrat, administrator, and diplomat, though not a leader. His internal reforms have gone a long way to appeasing the US administration, under pressure from a hostile Congress, and he has made progress towards recovering some of the $1 billion (£625 million) debts in unpaid US dues.

Yet Iraq has been a source of constant irritation. He has appeared unwilling to deal with what looks like a poisoned chalice and joked that SG did not stand for secretary-general, but scapegoat.

Asked before he left for Baghdad last February whether he was ruthless enough to deal with President Saddam, he said he did not know whether ruthlessness was what was required to get a solution.

هكذا من الاصل

صكذا من الاصل

Hunt for family of spinster who left £7m but no will



Wealthy accountant Helen Lowe ignored solicitors' pleas to make a will, while advising her own clients on their finances

Helen Carter

A GENEALOGIST has been brought in to track down relatives of a Scottish spinster who died last November leaving £7 million — but no will.

Helen Lowe, who was 99 and from Edinburgh, had never married. She never recovered from losing her sweetheart in the first world war.

Miss Lowe had a reputation as a feisty pioneer, who was one of Scotland's first female chartered accountants when she set up her own business 70 years ago. In the months before she died, she was still advising clients about their financial affairs.

The daughter of a Berwickshire coal merchant, she accumulated her wealth through stocks and shares and she also owned a number of properties in Edinburgh. Two buildings she bought in a prestigious square are now worth more than £1 million each.

Her second cousin, Andrew Lowe, who is an executor of her estate, said relatives had already been found in Britain, Canada, South Africa and Australia.

He thinks it will be a long time before the genealogist is able to disentangle the family tree and locate everyone.

"We have unearthed a number of relatives already and no doubt there are many more to come," he said. "It is going to take a lot of time and effort."

Mr Lowe, who is in his 70s, is baffled why his second cousin did not leave a will, as she was always well organised.

"We simply can't work it out," he said. "We looked all over the house and all we found were letters from her solicitors pleading with her to make a will and sign it.

"We all knew she was rich, maybe even a millionaire, but nobody suspected she was worth this."

He said she continued to work up until her death and described her as bright as a button. "She wasn't frugal as much as canny. She had a native Scottish driving power and ambition that would make her buckle down to a challenge, and it was a challenge in those days to become a professional woman — her parents were scandalised — but maybe it was to get over a broken heart."

She also threw her energy into charitable work, notably for Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Help the Aged, and the Scottish Women's Rural Institute and was awarded an MBE in 1964 for her work with Leith Old People's Welfare Council.

Grammar school war hots up as two switch status

Rebecca Smithers
Education Correspondent



David Blunkett (left) is said to prefer grammar schools being turned into comprehensives but has relented because the Government feared bad publicity

TWO elite Bristol grammar schools have been given the green light to go comprehensive by the Government after ministers backed parents' plans to abolish their selective status.

Cotham Grammar and Fairfield Grammar will switch in 2000 after a long campaign by parents that previously had been dismissed by Conservative ministers.

The move is seen by many as the first shots in a war over the role of the remaining 164 grammar schools in the state system. New rules, set to pass through Parliament this week, will give parents the power to force a ballot to facilitate their schools switching from grammar to comprehensive; a petition of a fifth of parents in affected areas will trigger such a ballot.

However, in areas where under a quarter of the schools are selective only parents from "feeder" primary schools will be eligible to vote. These parents are likely to want to the change, which has been frustrated by the grammar schools' highly selective admissions that suck bright children from outside catchment areas.

Resentment has been building up in prime middle-class target areas such as Kent, which has 39 grammar schools — nearly a quarter of the country's grammar schools. Also vulnerable is Birmingham, where there are 200 secondary schools and fierce competition for entry into eight grammar schools. Barnet, in north London, Buckinghamshire and Lancashire, are also vulnerable. But some of the first ballots could occur in areas where there is just one grammar school, such as at Ripon in North Yorkshire.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has supported parental right schools' status, though he has faced opposition to his plans to cut grammar schools. The outcome, is, say critics, "fudged".

Roy Hattersley, former Labour deputy leader and an active member of the Campaign for State Education group, warns of the loophole in the regulations that will ensure the survival of grammar schools. He has said that Mr Blunkett would "prefer grammar schools to be turned into comprehensives" but had relented because the Government feared the bad publicity.

Despite this, pro-grammar school activists say that the new rules will lead to long standing centres of academic excellence being phased out for the sake of it.

Magaret Dewar, a former chair of the National Grammar School Association, said the "country's 150,000 grammar school parents should march on Downing St".

Yesterday the shadow education spokesman Damian Green said there would not be much support for ballots. "There is huge support for grammar schools. But if ballots were to go ahead, there would have to be a huge reorganisation of local schools which would be both costly and disruptive."

Girls gripped by worry over looks

Helen Carter

TEENAGE girls have such a poor self-image that many worry about their appearance more than anything else in their lives.

Weight and appearance are by far the main concerns for girls, eclipsing family problems, difficulties with friends, health, careers and school, according to an Exeter university survey.

"For girls, worrying about the way you look is not just top of the list, it is markedly higher than anything else," said researcher John Balding.

"The overwhelming majority of those who say they wish to lose weight have no medical weight problem at all, and some are underweight.

"The most important worry for females is how they look and that is linked to worry about weight."

Researchers from the Schools Health Education unit questioned 37,500 children aged 12-15, and concluded that girls were much more worried about their weight and appearance than boys.

Among girls of 14 and 15, 57.5 per cent named the way they look as the biggest concern in their lives. In contrast, only 28.2 per cent of teenage boys said it was their main concern. A further 31.6 per cent of boys said they had no worries at all.

Researchers found there was no significant difference in weight between teenage girls who worried about being fat. Those with low self-esteem were more likely to worry about their weight and diet.

Among girls aged 12 to 13, 59 per cent of those with low self-esteem were weight watchers, compared with 38 per cent of those happier about their appearance.

The study concluded that to help counter the problem, a greater diversity of body shapes among actresses and models needed to be seen on television and in newspapers.

Rix charged with under-age sex

Stuart Millar



Graham Rix: girl's father complained to police

GRAHAM Rix, the Chelsea coach and former England star, has been charged with having sex with an under-age girl, it emerged yesterday.

Rix, aged 41, is alleged to have had unlawful sexual intercourse with the 15-year-old at his club's hotel, the Novotel in Hammersmith, west London, on or before February 27 — the night before Chelsea's home defeat against Manchester United.

He also faces three charges of indecently assaulting the girl, who is now 16. He has been bailed to appear before magistrates on December 22, Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday.

The first charge of indecent assault relates to an occasion on January 8, another is alleged to have taken place between January 8 and January 30 and the last on February 27 this year.

The investigation into Rix's alleged liaison with the girl, who cannot be named, began in August after her father complained to police. On September 23 he was arrested and questioned over the girl's claims. Detectives are believed to be planning to question Chelsea's Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet and two other players about whether they saw anything at the hotel.

Police, who are also taking evidence from Rix's friends and family, stressed there was no suggestion that Poyet or the other players were involved.

Rix, who was capped 17 times for England before joining Chelsea as youth coach in 1998, has been married to his wife Gill for 19 years, but last year the marriage hit difficulties.

"One's aim must always be perfection with the secret hope that one never makes it. Perfection to me is death. It's nothing."
Peter Ustinov interviewed

G2 page 4

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Jakarta awaits showdown

John Gittings and John Aglionby in Jakarta

NO ONE in Jakarta expected the police shields stacked up yesterday outside the parliament building to remain out of use for long. But while preparing for renewed confrontation, none of the parties seemed able to predict the outcome.

The death toll from Friday's killings by soldiers shooting on unarmed anti-government demonstrators rose by last night to 18, with more than 400 wounded. The Jakarta Post summed up the mood with a front-page montage of a young man reeling backwards in the sights of a gun, beneath the words "Shock, Grief, Anger".

Yet the position of the defence minister and armed forces commander, General Wiranto, appears to have been strengthened with President B. J. Habibie ordering him to "take stern action" against those allegedly seeking to topple the government.

In a national address on Saturday night, Mr Habibie accused "certain parties" of subversion and "trying to endanger the unity of the nation and the people".

As if to back up the point, Indonesia's military moved yesterday to detain several prominent government critics. A retired lieutenant-general, Kemal Idris, the leader of an outspoken group called Barison Nasional, was picked up at his home by police. A fellow member, Ali Sadikin — also a retired lieutenant-general and former Jakarta governor — was summoned for questioning.

Sri Bintang Pamungkas, an opposition politician who led a peaceful demonstration of tens of thousands of students outside the parliament on Saturday, said he had been arrested for incitement and other things: "But all I was doing was trying to say something and use my freedom to speak about the need for reform."

On Saturday, Hariadi Darmawan, who initiated the opposition National Reform Movement, was interrogated for 13 hours and a National Front member, Roch Basoeki Mangoenpoerojo, was questioned for 5½ hours. Both were released without charge.

At least four of those arrested are among the 17 political figures who signed a document on Thursday that rejected a special parliamentary session that met last week to pass new political laws. The cycle of demonstrations began as a protest against this parliamentary session, seen as offering little genuine change. The 17 called for the creation of a presidium to replace the government of President Habibie until a general election could be held.



An armoured vehicle in Jakarta yesterday after the government deployed more troops in anticipation of renewed rioting PHOTOGRAPH: MANDEL NGAN

'All students are now united and the protests are going to get bigger'

Jakarta's streets, usually teeming with traffic and pedestrians on Sundays, were practically deserted yesterday as people feared the start of a military crackdown. Roads leading to the presidential palace were still blocked by troops in light tanks and armoured personnel carriers, while hundreds of marines — the only branch of the military enjoying some trust among Indonesians because they are deemed sympathetic to the pro-democracy movement — were deployed around the city.

They intervened several times to defuse violent situations, as they had done in the May demonstrations that forced the former dictator, Suharto, from power.

The green berets of the Strategic Reserve are regarded with as much loathing as when they were commanded by Sunharto's son-in-law, General Prabowo, and are have been blamed for Friday's killings.

Student leaders believe there is a protracted struggle ahead. "We have to preserve our stamina," said Rakhmad Dewanto, a student leader from the University of Indonesia. "This is going to be a very long haul and so we have to pace ourselves. All students are now united and so the protests are going to get much bigger."

They acknowledge that they are politically diverse, but say that their lack of centralised structure will help them to survive repression.

Though some observers believe that Friday's killings should be attributed to military incompetence and indiscipline, the students accuse Gen Wiranto of being personally responsible. They point to the statement he made hours before the shooting, insisting that "Jakarta is safe and under control".

Moderate politicians are appalled by Mr Habibie's move. "He has put his own position on the line by giving the chief of armed forces full powers," a Golkar party leader said.

He said that the government's only chance of clearing the air would be to "come out with a clarification of what happened". But with Mr Habibie now tied closely to his military chief, there is even less chance of holding a proper inquiry.

'President has put himself on the line by giving the army chief full powers'

There is a sense of hopelessness: Mr Habibie has no choice but to retain Gen Wiranto, even though that will only make things worse for him. The events of the past few days have demonstrated more clearly than he would have wished the president's dependence upon the armed forces.

The anguish over what is being called "Black Friday" has distracted attention from the detail of the decrees adopted by the parliament, which failed to meet student demands for removing the army from politics.

The final version of the 12th decree merely refers to an "adjustment" of the military's dual role in security and government. Another decree referred to the need to "deal firmly with" rather than prosecute corruption and nepotism from the Suharto regime.

The critical question now being asked is whether the events of the last week will slow or hasten the process of demilitarising Indonesia's political culture.

Yard asked to help prove Israelis were spying

Chris Drake in Larnaca and Ilene Prusher in Jerusalem

BRITISH police have been asked to assist in investigating an alleged Israeli spy mission in Cyprus which has damaged the reputation of the Mossad intelligence service and embarrassed the Israeli government.

A Cyprus court heard yesterday that Scotland Yard has been contacted in an attempt to trace phone calls from Britain to mobile phones carried by two Israelis — Udi Argov and Ig'al Damari — said by Cypriot police to be Mossad agents. Israel has not denied this claim. The district court in Larnaca yesterday extended the men's detention order for five more days.

Phonecalls traced so far include several to an intelligence institute in Tel Aviv. The phones used a billing address in England and one in Holland.

Mr Argov and Mr Damari were arrested last weekend. The court heard that a search of their holiday apartment uncovered a sophisticated radio scanner used to tune in to military and police frequencies, and tape recordings of police radio conversations. They were seen near Cypriot military installations and it is alleged that they may have been trying to establish if any parts of a Russian-made missile defence system have arrived on the island.

Officially, the system is not supposed to be ready for delivery until next month and there are unconfirmed reports that the Greek Cypriot-led administration will bow to international pressure and cancel the deal.

The incident is sensitive because Turkey, which occupies the northern part of the island has repeatedly threatened to destroy the missiles. Turkey now has a military agreement with Israel.

Greek Cypriots were particularly angered by the comments of Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, who vowed to bring the two Israelis home.

Even more embarrassing, the men arrived just days after President Ezer Weizman had completed the first visit by an Israeli head of state since Cyprus won independence from Britain in 1960.





Arrested in Cyprus: alleged (left) and Ig'al Damary Mossad agents Udi Hargov PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREAS MANOLIS

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News in brief

Troops expel Serb extremist

British troops with the multinational peacekeeping force in Bosnia expelled the leader of the extremist Serbian Radical Party at the weekend, fearing his presence would upset the republic's fragile peace, *writes Chris Bird in Belgrade.*

Vojislav Seselj, deputy prime minister of neighbouring Yugoslavia, was handed a letter ordering him to quit the country immediately from the Western-run administration which in effect runs Bosnia.

Governor defeated

Masahide Ota, governor of Japan's southern island of Okinawa, was beaten in his attempt to win re-election by Keiichi Inamine, an adviser to a group of local business leaders. Much of the campaign had centred on the issue of the US military presence on the island. Mr Ota had rejected a government plan to build a floating heliport off the Okinawan coast, and wanted the US troops moved to another part of the country. — *AP.*

Boost for Anwar

Ignoring warnings not to meddle in Malaysian affairs, the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, yesterday met Azizah Ismail, wife of the former deputy prime minster Anwar Ibrahim. Ms Albright called Mr Anwar, who is in jail on corruption and sexual misconduct charges, a "highly respected leader". — *AP.*

S African papers deny racism

David Beresford in Johannesburg

AN angry squabble has broken out between South African newspaper editors and a human rights watchdog over allegations of racism in the media.

The country's biggest-selling newspaper, the Sunday Times, yesterday accused the Human Rights Commission (HRC) of bias and said it was "neither empowered, nor equipped" to carry out a planned investigation into racism in the media industry.

The row, which has wider political ramifications, followed a charge by the Black Lawyers Association and the Association of Black Accountants that two newspapers — the Sunday Times and the daily Mail & Guardian — were guilty of "subliminal racism" and "violating the rights of black people to equality".

They complained to the HRC that black — as opposed to white — corruption got disproportionate coverage.

The Mail & Guardian, in which the Guardian has a controlling interest, ridiculed the claim, saying that it amounted to a demand that newspapers ration their coverage of corruption cases on a basis of racial demography. The Sunday Times suggested the aim was to cover up corruption.

The HRC last week rejected the complaint by the blacks' lawyers and accountants, ruling that "the issue of racism in the media is not confined to two newspapers only". But it announced that it would launch a wider inquiry into the media as a whole.

The governing African National Congress has shown itself schizophrenic about corruption in public life.

The government has taken an aggressive stance on corruption, introducing codes of conduct for public representatives and government officials, and staging an anti-corruption "summit".

At the same time it has failed to accept accountability for government scandals, accusing its critics — particularly the media and predominantly white opposition parties — of racial motives.

Black sensitivities were piqued again on Friday when the Mail & Guardian accused the country's black Public Protector, Selby Baqwa, of trying to shield the black vice-chancellor of a polytechnic from corruption charges.

Simultaneously a white judge, Willem Heath, heading an inquiry into corruption, said he was bringing legal action against the minister of health, Nkosazana Zuma, demanding she repay £1 million to the state which her department had "negligently, or recklessly" spent on an anti-Aids play.

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European Union debates education

The EU today threw its member states into some confusion about the long-term future of its proposed education policy. Education ministers are to meet today in Bruges to thrash out a compromise which should see the primary, secondary, and further education sectors implement a coherent plan for the next [illegible] to be centred around the fact, previously unnoticed by high-up EU sources, that different countries actually speak different languages. [illegible] the proposed [illegible] which meant an across-the-board, all-embracing curriculum has had to be drastically re-thought.

[illegible] seemed promising. From nursery school [illegible] graduate studies, every [illegible] in the EU would be [illegible] the same lessons at [illegible] the same time. It was further proposed that all teachers would be based in Munich at a virtual 'edu-centre' and conduct all lessons according to a central timetable. The 300 million pupils across the EU would have the [illegible] in helmets, so outmoding at one stroke the conventional [illegible] to school.

[illegible] going to plan until someone, believed [illegible] European Education Minister, pointed out that the idea was in fact completely useless. The vast majority of pupils would not be able to understand because they do not speak the language in which the lessons were to be taught.

[illegible] sultant education specialist to the EU, insisted that the idea was not 'dead in the water' as some critics had suggested: "A little fine tuning [illegible] is all that is required," he said. "Options [illegible] to be explored. Revamping [illegible] universal [illegible] is one of [illegible]

speak English another. I personally feel that the use of mime is a viable o[illegible] although for the com[illegible] tion of the more [illegible] branches of pure ma[illegible] ics or astrophysics th[illegible] prove more difficult."

However, trials are underway involving [illegible] troupes and circus ac[illegible] the central European [illegible] to see if quantum me[illegible] and string theory are c[illegible] nicable by people [illegible] black leotards and m[illegible] sad and happy faces. [illegible] results have not been [illegible] aging especially in th[illegible] of Lvov where three [illegible] were accidentally let i[illegible] rush hour and caused [illegible] monium in the centra[illegible] mercial district.

Sir Neil Burrows, [illegible] wing chairman [illegible] Tuesday Club, for all[illegible]

[illegible] the la[illegible] proposals, [illegible] [illegible] of the total [illegible] tion by a flabby, bure[illegible] super-state of 'this sc[illegible] isle'. I'm not saying t[illegible] English comprehensive [illegible] but by [illegible] manage [illegible] ou[illegible] wonderful s[illegible] I can think of at least [illegible] straight off the top of my [illegible]

"If this multi-headed [illegible] pean monster has [illegible] [illegible] professed by Liberal t[illegible] which has become all to[illegible] lent on the Continen[illegible] wants a society where [illegible] lots of garlic, abandon t[illegible] ball game, speak more t[illegible] language and have a de[illegible]

At this point Sir [illegible] became rather confus[illegible] was pursued down th[illegible] by a pack of press [illegible] and photographers. [illegible] later seen in the [illegible] looking [illegible]

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Rebel seeks Italian haven

Foreign staff

ITALY came under intense pressure yesterday to extradite Turkey's most wanted man as more than 1,000 Kurds held a counter-demonstration in Rome demanding asylum for the guerrilla leader.

Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the PKK, the Kurdish separatist party in Turkey, is believed to have been taken ill shortly after his arrest on Thursday and was taken to Celio military hospital. Italian officials have refused to confirm his whereabouts.

In a letter in the Italian newspaper La Repubblica yesterday, Mr Ocalan said that his mission was "not war but dialogue with Turkey, Europe and the United States. What we have done is maybe a little premature, but it is a political step towards opening dialogue for peace".

Mr Ocalan has led a 14-year campaign for self-rule in mainly Kurdish southeast Turkey, in one of the most violent conflicts to have troubled the region. Some 29,000 people have died in clashes between his supporters and Turkish security forces.

Italy's communist Justice Minister Oliviero Diliberto, has 10 days to confirm Mr Ocalan's arrest. If he does, he then has to decide on Turkey's extradition request.

Several senior members of Italy's month-old government, which includes Marxist ministers for the first time in 50 years, are in favour of granting Mr Ocalan asylum.

The legal wrangle over Mr Ocalan's fate is complicated because Italy abolished the death penalty after the second world war and the constitution forbids extradition to countries such as Turkey where the death penalty is still in force.

An added complication was the seizure by Turkish prisoners in an Istanbul jail of an Italian inmate in a bid to force Mr Ocalan's extradition. One prisoner said the Italian would be held hostage until Italy agreed to hand over the Kurdish guerrilla.

Several hundred Kurds were seen crossing the border from Switzerland near the northern city of Como in cars and buses on their way to Rome to join the demonstration outside Celio hospital.

More than 1,000 Kurds also marched through Bonn in support of Mr Ocalan.





Karr Farnsworth, whose Utah-based group runs the Morava Academy in Brno, faces questions about abuse at the institution where children were allegedly threatened with the guard dog (right). Since the school was was closed, families have been arriving to take children back to the US (far right).

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIE DENESHA



Americans 'tortured children' in Czech home for teenagers

Kate Connolly in Brno

AN American couple who ran a youth correction centre in the Czech Republic have been charged with torturing and illegally imprisoning the 57 children in their care.

Allegations of physical and psychological ill-treatment at Morava Academy just outside the southern city of Brno were made by former employees and led to a month-long police investigation.

Glenda and Steven Roach, aged 41 and 52, both former police officers from St George in Utah, were arrested last week, along with two Czech colleagues, Brno police said. If found guilty, they face between two and eight years in prison.

Pupils of the academy — mainly Americans — have been questioned by police. The 15- to 18-year-olds, described as "troubled teenagers" by the academy management, have told of abuse, including being placed in solitary confinement for weeks, being handcuffed and tied up, and forced to lie on the floor all day. Some pupils allegedly had to defecate on the floor because their toilet visits were restricted by staff.

"These children were sent here by their legal guardians and held against their will," said Petr Netik, head of the Brno police organised crime unit. "They were given no psychological or medical help during their stay."

He said he would contact the FBI about the possibility of prosecuting parents who may have broken the law in the United States by forcing their children into the academy.

Morava Academy, a former hotel surrounded by a forest and a lake, is run by the Utah-based company Worldwide Association of Specialty Programs. The institution, which opened in January, is part of an international chain of "teenage help" schemes. It charges $1,790 (£1,070) per pupil per month.

> 'The children were sent here by their guardians and held against their will'

Police are also investigating claims of financial impropriety under which children were deprived of pocket money.

"They were supposed to receive $80 a month, but were given 120 Czech crowns [£2.40] and told that was the correct conversion," Mr Netik said.

A 34-year-old teacher, Hana Simonova, was sacked from the academy last month after reporting her concerns to the Prague-based child protection agency, White Circle.

She talked of children being locked in padded rooms with whitewashed windows and of one girl being fed sandwiches for two months as a punishment for bad behaviour.

She also said that unruly children were threatened with the school's guard dog. "We had a menu of punishments to give out for various 'crimes'," she said.

"And for every thing a child did wrong there was a financial penalty attached to the parents' bill at the end of the month, plus the restriction of privileges for the children," she added.

Penalties started at 30p for forgetting a schoolbook. Pupils misbehaving in class would be sat upon by staff.

But parents who have been arriving from all over the US to collect their children defended the Roaches.

"They are totally on our side in our efforts to give structure to our kids' lives," said Gita from Los Angeles, who has a 15-year-old daughter at Morava. "We sent our kids here to live in a healthy environment and to learn self-love. We have made great efforts to send them here, remortgaging our houses and giving up our pension plans."

Jo Ellen from Anchorage, Alaska, said her 17-year-old daughter had been placed in solitary confinement, but she had "requested to go there to sort herself out".

The mothers said their children's behaviour had undergone "miraculous" transformations thanks to the academy's "structured and loving" programme.

One of the children, James from San Francisco, said last week: "This place changed my life overnight. For the first time in my life I have a sense of self-worth and I'm going to be really sad when they close it down."

A third of the children have been sent home and some are being cared for by Brno social services.

The Roaches, a Mormon couple, have returned to the academy after being given bail.

Karr Farnsworth, the president of the Worldwide Association of Specialty Programs, said in Brno: "Obviously our rules and the laws of the Czech Republic are incompatible and as long as our programme is not welcomed here we will be forced to move elsewhere."

Corking time for experts as Burgundy vineyards celebrate

Jon Henley in Beaune

AS they have on the third Sunday in November for 138 years, wine-buyers from around the globe rolled happily into the ancient city of Beaune yesterday to eat vast amounts of food and reassure themselves that, as always, Burgundy wine prices are going up.

Early bidding in the Hospices de Beaune sale — billed as the world's largest annual charity auction, traditionally setting the tone for wine prices and the mood of the French nation — valued the 1998 vintage at nearly 25 per cent more than last year's near-record.

"It's perfect," said Marc Jambon, president of the BIVB Burgundy Wine Board. "These are good prices and they'll probably go up a bit more. It surprises me every year, but the fact is that to buy wine of this quality one really has to be slightly mad."

The 138th Vente des Vins des Hospices de Beaune drew experts and freeloaders from Europe, the United States and Asia for a week-end of unabashed excess.

Trundling from feast to banquet, digestive systems trying to cope with three six-course meals and 18 different wines in 36 hours, their real work was to snap up 577 barrels of some of the world's finest, most expensive, wines — international superstars such as Meursault, Montrachet, Pommard, Corton, Vougeot and Volnay.

One portly New York buyer said: "There aren't many places where you can get away with abusing yourself like this. Here they don't even give you the option."

The wines themselves, all produced by the Hospices de Beaune's winemakers, are sold by the 228-litre barrel, the equivalent of just over 300 bottles. All proceeds go to the hospital, which as a result offers the cheapest, most advanced health care in France.

Last year's sale raised £2.36 million, the most expensive barrel fetching £15,200 — just over £50 a bottle. If it reached your local off-licence, it would cost at least twice as much. But this was a Batard Montrachet, probably one of the world's top three white wines.

The BIVB described the reds as having "desirably rustic tannins, highly interesting aromas of peony, lilac and black cherry, and a wholly admirable ruby colouration". The whites, although "not particularly well-endowed in terms of volume", were "expressive and gratifying, clear and honest, with no hint of a false note".

Industry experts predict prices for all Burgundy wines — those produced by the Hospices de Beaune are only 1,000th of the 180 million bottles sold in 1997-98 — will rise by as much as 20 per cent for the better-known labels over the next two years.

"There's always rather a lot of drunkenness, of course," agreed the town's chief of police at a pre-auction banquet. "But it's OK. It's Burgundy wine, not alcohol."

California's unquenchable thirst

WATER

Divisions can emerge not only between nations but within them. In California's south, **Christopher Reed** reports on a giant project that seems to ignore past lessons. Below, Pakistan's regions seethe with jealousy over a dam plan

"Whisky's for drinkin', water's for fightin' "
— Attributed to Mark Twain

IN WHAT is being branded by environmentalists the final giant folly of California's water wars, the largest civil engineering project in the United States is being gouged from arid land in the south of the state to provide "dependable" supplies into the 21st century.

In a vast manmade bowl near the town of Hemet, hundreds of workers are using earth movers as high as houses night and day to dam three valleys in the 2,000ft-high mountains to create a lake 4.5 miles long and more than 2 miles wide. One dam will be 280ft high and another more than 2 miles long.

The most remarkable feature of the dams creating the Eastside reservoir is that no river is being blocked off — no natural water exists in the Domenigoni and Diamond valleys that the reservoir straddles. Instead, the giant pool will be filled from two existing aqueducts, one that carries water in from the much-siphoned Colorado river 242 miles to the east, and the other starting 444 miles away in the wetter north of the state, which is a resentful supplier.

The flow starts late next year. The reservoir will take four years to fill, and contain enough water to supply 160,000 families for a year — although with summer temperatures approaching 38C (100F), enough will evaporate to supply a city of 30,000.

These are the sort of statistics that thrilled a previous generation of Americans when it seemed everything could be "fixed" and size was unlimited — an era that produced the Hoover dam and turned the mighty Colorado into a muddy trickle at its mouth.

The purpose of the new reservoir, costing more than $2 billion (£1.2 billion), is to store water for southern California, particularly San Diego, in drought years.

The trouble is that no one can predict droughts in a region of mostly real or semi-desert that has less than 20ins of rain a year. In the reservoir's scrubland area, the average is only 12ins. Even the term "average" is meaningless in southern California. Rainfall can vary widely from year to year: in 1977, 12ins fell, but 33ins fell a year later (an inch above western England's average that year).

Tree rings show the longest drought lasting from 1760 to 1820. A repeat would depopulate modern southern California, forcing 80 per cent of the population to leave the area if the Colorado dried up.

Environmentalists say the region can only support half of those who live here already and that the new reservoir is another example of decades of huge water projects that ignore nature's long-term realities. The result has been a series of disasters — diverted rivers have taken revenge, reservoirs silted up, and irrigated land gone salted — which have triggered the state's water wars, pitting cities against farms, north against south, engineers against environmentalists.

When the Colorado flooded a basin during attempts to irrigate a border valley in 1905 it took three years and 200,000 railway wagons carrying landfill stone to push the river back to its source. Today the Imperial Valley is a cornucopia, but the Salton Sea remains, a putrifying, saline deathtrap for birds that is costing $380 million to clean.

Residents of Owens Valley, east of the Sierra Nevada, still resent the notorious theft of their river by Los Angeles, which in the biggest engineering project of its time built a pipeline 223 miles long in 1913 to divert the water.

This murky story provided the background for the 1974 Hollywood film Chinatown, but the movie did not portray the guerrilla tactics of the Owenites, who blew up the pipeline 11 times between 1924 and 1931.

Today the lake drained by that project is the most particulate-polluted in the US.

Los Angeles has also lost water from threatened Mono Lake, further north.

The state's worst water disaster occurred in 1928 when the St Francis dam north of LA broke, flooding the town of Santa Paula and cutting a 2 mile-wide swath 70 miles to the Pacific. A total of 450 people were killed.

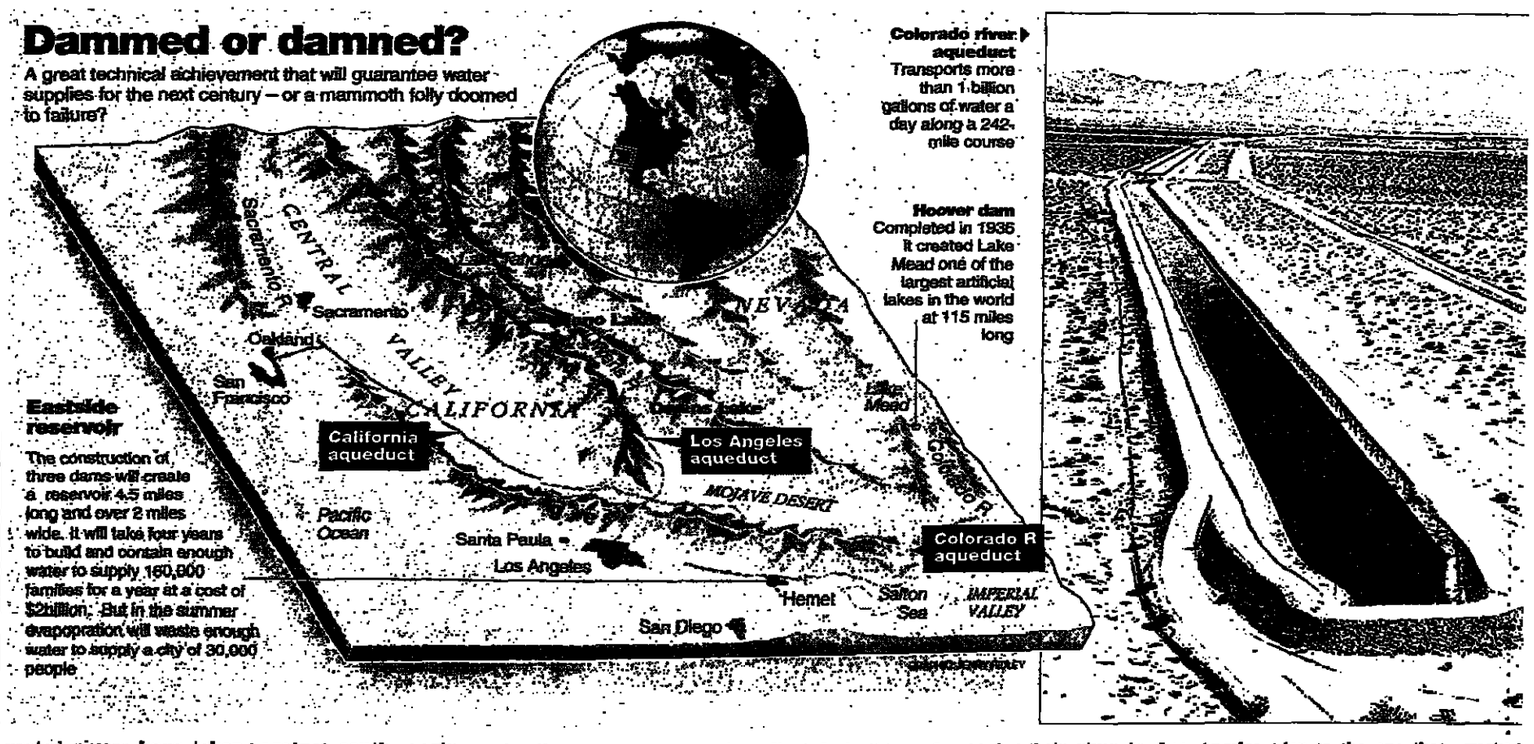
The main Eastside reservoir dam has been built to withstand a tremor of up to 7.5 on the Richter scale, similar to the one that wrecked San Francisco in 1906. The nearest fault line is only 5 miles away, and the notorious San Andreas fault lies 17 miles to the south.

Because no rivers are dammed by the reservoir, there has been little opposition to the project, although the Domenigoni farming family won $47 million compensation from the project's builders, the Metropolitan Water District.

The "Met" had hoped the project would be a palliative in the two-year war between LA and San Diego over water distribution. But Eastside has already gone $200 million over cost, and San Diego will have to bear a quarter of that.

San Diego, whose economic ambitions depend on more water, also worries that Eastside will not be able to quench its thirst during the reservoir's years of filling up.

Another water war may be in the offing.



Sharif wades deep into controversy

WHEN Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, revived a moribund project to build another dam on the Indus river last summer, he could hardly have foreseen the extreme passions stirred by the hugely expensive project, *writes Suzanne Goldenberg*.

For the people of Sind and North-West Frontier Province, the dam has crystallised resentment against the country's richest and most popular province, Punjab. It has also been taken as potent evidence by those who allege that Mr Sharif is favouring his home province.

Pakistan first considered building the Kalabagh dam, which would stem the flow of the Indus near the town of Mianwali in northern Punjab province, in 1954. But construction was stalled because the costs were prohibitive.

According to the most recent estimates, the dam will cost $9 billion (£5.4 billion), an impossible expenditure for a country already in technical default on its international loan commitments. It will also submerge huge swaths of Sind and North-West Frontier Province, dispossessing as many as 400,000 people.

In August, the country's opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto, led tens of thousands of farmers in a protest against the dam, a project that has become hugely divisive in a country already prone to instability.

Mr Sharif revived the Kalabagh project in the summer, apparently as a way of distracting attention from the hardships resulting from foreign sanctions after his government carried out nuclear tests last May.

While the project is mainly intended to increase electricity supply in a country where power cuts are common, it is also intended to irrigate arid southern Punjab, enabling farmers to grow rich on cotton and wheat. That is what has proved so galling for the North-West Frontier people who have little arable land and few irrigation canals.

Comment

e-mail

Suzanne Goldenberg @Kandahar

ONCE he sang of love and moonlit nights, in a voice so tender that audiences lolling on the customary bolsters would sweep their arms towards the stage and bend their heads in appreciation.

That was in the days of music. Nowadays, instruments are banned in Kandahar, as in most of Afghanistan, because the Taliban militia believes a mind drawn to beauty can easily wander into sin.

And so while musicians fled or fell silent, one of Afghanistan's most popular practitioners of the *ghazal*, or love ballad, became a songbird of the Taliban.

Two years on, Naimatullah Kandahari — as is the custom for poets and singers, he has added the city of his birth to his name — has recorded more than a dozen cassettes of the Pashtu-language martial tunes that, along with Koranic verses, are the only music sanctioned by the Taliban. There are no concerts.

Album number 14 was released last month. It joins a galaxy of Taliban offerings on display in a tiny shop in Kandahar, the southern city that is the stronghold of the Islamic movement. All the cassettes were recorded locally, in the rather primitive conditions of the shop-owner's home studio.

None of the albums has a title, and buyers make their selection according to the singer. But it's easy to guess the content from cover designs whose central motif is invariably a photograph of some kind of armament: tanks, grenades, Kalashnikovs, jet fighters or anti-aircraft guns. Among the killing machines, Naimatullah's sad eyes the colour of bourbon stare out from the racks. His is the only face to survive the Taliban ban against depictions of the human form.

NOW aged 35, Naimatullah began singing at the age of eight, and performing on the radio and at concerts in India and Pakistan while still in his teens. Naimatullah's master still lives in Kabul, but cannot face the subject matter that his disciple now pursues. Naimatullah's six regular accompanists now live in Pakistan.

He visits them. Because while his albums give a measure of security to one whose very occupation is suspect for the Taliban, it does not bring in enough to survive. So, during the cool winter months of the wedding season, Naimatullah spends two or three days a week in Pakistan, performing at weddings in Karachi, and Quetta, a city only six hours drive from Kandahar.

The Taliban know about his double life, Naimatullah says, but they accept it because they know he can not make do on his official earnings. He makes a flat fee of just 2,000 Pakistani rupees (about £20) per recording.

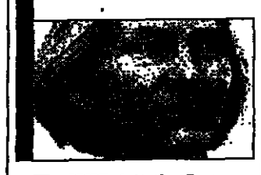
Naimatullah is grateful to have been allowed to stay in his home. His two children have died, but if he were to have a son, he would want him to be a singer too.



By taking the first step, this man deserves a salute from us all

Forget the Drugs War

Isabel Hilton



A FEW statistics first. One million Colombians have been forced from their homes by more than three decades of civil war and tens of thousands more have died. The armed forces of Colombia have been in steady retreat and have progressively abandoned nearly 40 per cent of the country to guerrilla control. With a history like that, it would be naive to imagine that the government of Colombia is either strong or free of corruption.

Powerful groups include not only the traditional oligarchy — the landowners, cattle ranchers, coffee barons and industrialists, but also those who have made their fortunes in one way or another out of the white powder that is America's favourite recreational drug — cocaine. Anyone who makes it to the Colombian presidency without some of that money in his war chest, however many times it has been through the laundry, clearly has a talent for miracles.

A few more statistics: the UN tells us that the drug business is now worth $400 billion a year, nearly as much as the global tourist industry. The same organisation estimated that 218 million people are consumers of drugs, some 10 per cent of them of cocaine and heroin.

Colombia now has a new president — Andres Pastrana, elected last summer. In the few months since his election, Mr Pastrana has done two things that have already earned him a footnote in the history books. In July, even before he had been sworn in, he made a high profile gesture toward Colombia's biggest guerrilla army — the FARC (Armed Forces of Colombia), flying to meet the leaders in an encounter that made a dramatic front page picture for all the Colombian newspapers and even made the inside pages of an international press that has shown itself largely indifferent to Colombia's troubles.

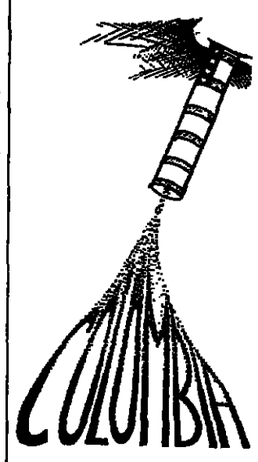
President Pastrana's second diplomatic triumph came last month when he became the first Colombian president in more than 20 years to make a state visit to Washington. The US likes Mr Pastrana, so far at least. His economic policy suits the interests of American business and he talks the language of the market. His trip to Washington should, therefore, have been a harmonious affair, but it was not. True, the US promised another $280 million in anti-drug and development money, but instead of staying quiet and posing for the photo opportunity in the posture of grateful supplicant, Mr Pastrana had the temerity to question the US approach to eliminating drugs in his country. It did not go down well with the Republicans in Congress, who like to round up votes by grandstanding about the "war" on drugs. They complained that Mr Pastrana was selling out by seeking a deal with what the US right wing likes to call the "narco-terrorists" of the FARC.

LUMPING together the guerrilla threat and the drug menace was one of George Bush's more inspired moves. Casting around perhaps for an enemy on the scale of the collapsed Communist menace, the then President Bush declared cocaine to be the US's "most serious problem".

Since he declared his war on drugs in the early 90s, millions of dollars has been poured into an aerial crop-spraying programme that has caused serious environmental damage in the producer countries of Latin America, without having any impact on the traffic. Despite the tough talking and the cash, ($100 million dollars a year and rising) it has been a resounding failure. Cocaine seizures have increased, but so has the flow of drugs reaching the market. The Latin American traders have gone into global marketing and have steadily expanded the area under cultivation. US-financed planes, meanwhile, spray toxic chemicals on large tracts of South American land, damaging people and banana crops, but hardly touching the resilient coca bushes.

In Colombia, in the last four years of enforced spraying, the land devoted to coca cultivation doubled from 40,000 to 80,000 hectares. Last week, in a mocking footnote to the idea that it would be helpful to use Latin American armed forces in the "war" on drugs, US customs officials discovered nearly a ton of cocaine on a Colombian airforce plane that had landed at Fort Lauderdale. The Colombian airforce chief resigned, but nobody imagines that his resignation will make any difference.

What might make a difference is an approach to development that accomodates the needs of Colombian peasants to eat and feed their families — a need advocated, in theory at least, by the FARC guerrillas. As Mr Pastrana said in Washington, the "war" on drugs was not only an expensive waste of time and effort, it was also an obstacle to a peace settlement and peace in the political war is a pre-requisite for any success in the drugs war. When they met in July, the FARC leadership told Andres Pastrana that they, too, were willing to co-operate in drug eradication, if a satisfactory peace deal could be reached and if eradication was rationally pursued. Mr Pastrana appears to have recognised that the cocaine trade has its roots in his country's political and economic conflict



So-called 'narco-guerrillas' could be more useful as allies than as enemies

and that so-called "narco-guerrillas" of the FARC could be more useful as allies than as enemies.

This month, the FARC and the government are to conduct an experiment: five municipalities in the south of Colombia — some 3 per cent of Colombian territory — will become ceasefire zones for 90 days while peace talks are pursued. There are many obstacles to the success of those talks, not least the reluctance of Colombia's oligarchy to make the kind of concessions to the rural poor that might have prevented the war in the first place. There is also the question of US hostility: the initiative has been criticised in Congress because, Republicans complain, it will interfere with the drug eradication programme.

Pastrana's initiative is full of risks, but it is the first serious attempt to make peace in Colombia for nearly 20 years. To begin the process at all, he has had to defy ideological enemies in Bogota and in Washington who prefer cartoon ideology to reality. To carry it through, he will have to make economic and political concessions that will prejudice serious economic interests at home and abroad. If he pulls it off, it will be a near miracle. But just by taking the first step, he has dared to say that the "drug war" emperors have no clothes. For that, he deserves a salute from us all.

So farewell then, Woolly Liberal. You were a good chap, but off message

Peter Preston



DEARLY beloved: we are gathered here today to celebrate the life and death of one our nation's most enduring characters. He was a man of compassion and self-doubt. He took no decision lightly. He knew the world was a difficult place and he sought to make it better. But his day is done and his race is run. Brothers, we say goodbye to Mr Woolly Liberal.

The end, to be sure, has been a long time coming, the sickness a creeping sclerosis. Mr Woolly took to his bed in the early 80s as Nurse Thatcher battered the Wets with her bedpan. He got out of it to attend the launch party of Faith in the City but retired hurt almost immediately. He lit a candle for John Major, then blew it out.

Good old Woolly was never a political hack. He belonged to all parties, and to none. He was Jim Prior and Robert Runcie rolled into one. He believed in doing his best and listening to the other chap's point of view: really listening. He would sometimes change his mind or, more often, shift from one standpoint to no standpoint at all. His voice lives on when today's Archbishop of Canterbury talks women priests — or, indeed, anything requiring a decision — but only as a mocking echo.

RIP, Woolly. The culture shock of the Blair revolution was too much for you, and your feeble little heart stopped beating.

Consider, with sorrow and pity, the torture of his last few days. He believed, all his life, in a "fairer" electoral system. Something more balanced, more caring, more inclusive. And, at the close, it turned out to be the European Parliamentary Elections Bill. Fairness was getting on to the New Labour candidates' list behind closed doors. Inclusiveness was excluding anybody who got up the hierarchy's nose.

Was this — this curled-lip stitch-up — what he'd sought, all his life, to achieve? Was Woolly's fairness the axing of Dennis Canavan or the nobbling of Rhodri Morgan or the fixing of Red Ken? The final convulsions of doubt.

Fifteen years before, when the Benn tide had threatened to engulf him and Ken Livingstone seemed to be standing on the steps of County Hall inviting Mrs T to close him down, Mr Liberal had briefly and privately wished that somebody would give the left a bloody nose. But his liberalism, his essential liberalism, wouldn't let him go that far. Let nation speak peace unto nation and lions and lambs lie down together. Let men of goodwill sort things out — not be sorted, in the modern manner.

The final convulsion, though, came early yesterday morning, as Tony Blair swept Saddam Hussein's last scrap of paper from the table and vowed to start bombing, or else... Dear Woolly was an internationalist. Not a pacifist, that would be going too far, but a believer in jaw-jaw and all that stuff. He gave copiously to Oxfam and empathised with the suffering masses of Iraq. He didn't believe in smart missiles or the higher wisdom of the Pentagon. He loved 10-day debates in the Security Council. He couldn't take the vision of Mr Cook and Mr Blair rattling their sabres. He expired with the penultimate ultimatum.

Woolly, you see, was not a figure for the next millennium. His compassion went beyond words. He needed, himself, to act compassionately, too. He would give dossers in the Strand a 50-pence piece. He would try to Save the Children. Of course, that wasn't enough, he'd tell himself: but it was something — something which tied his beliefs, if any, to his personal deeds, if any. But that wasn't the New Labour he'd hoped for so fondly.

New Labour would talk tenderly about a better world, and hack the slats out of anyone who got in the way. New Labour would hymn the virtues of participation and openness, then slam the door on his fingers. New Labour wouldn't wring its hands: it would clench them and bop the awkward squad on the snout. New Labour was a different kind of liberalism.

THESE chaps (Woolly thought from his sickbed as the 90s wound on) say the things I believe in, but they don't do them. Freedom of information? The greater constitution of the party lists? The sticky embrace of Captain Ashdown (who's even started to talk like them). They paid him court, to be sure: they brought flowers to his ward and spoke about the wonders of community. But then they went away and did something entirely different.

The buzz words were decision, hard choices, tough measures. They privatised the control of the skies and the Queen's planes which flew in them. And their most ardent supporters, the businessmen who loved them, had a litany to go with that. "In a year they'll thank me" for making them, the unwanted workers, redundant. They were high on necessary pain and effectiveness.

Woolly heard these words, but he could never quite make a pattern of them in his addled head. Could you save jobs by cutting jobs? Could you make the generality happier by kicking the minority on the knee? Could you let free speech burgeon by telling the gang at the back to shut up (and clear everything with Alastair Campbell first)?

He was not a ruthless man. He was a grey, often timorous fellow who saw both sides of any question. He knew that his liberalism usually involved a lot of agonising and he agonised about that. He'd been trampled on all his days, trying his best.

Was this, then, it? The liberalism of Catholicism rather than the C of E? The religion of "Do this, because it's good for you"? The familiar liberalism of lawyers in a government run by lawyers, fellows convinced that their case — and only their case — was righteous? Or was he (as he often asked himself through the long sleepless nights) being unfair? For what, after all, had his way achieved? Wasn't it good to see people he approved of, at least in theory, knocking lumps out of their enemies, who were his enemies too?

Who cared about the necessity of the little list — or the quakings in the shanties of Bagdad? In a year, perhaps, they'd thank us. Doubt was his friend and his foe and, at the close, it gripped his ticker until it stopped beating.

Farewell, Woolly Liberal.

Irvine's Trousers

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

I AM seriously considering attending the House of Lords this afternoon — a happily rare event in itself which is made even more extraordinary by the fact that, if I am there, it will be my third visit in three sitting days. Last Thursday I observed, but did not take part in, the continued wrangle about which voting system we should use to send Members of the European Parliament. On Friday I actually spoke in the debate on parental ballots — the process by which comprehensive schools can be introduced into the few areas which still preserve arcane secondary selection. And today, I may well take my place on the red leather benches for the War of Irvine's Trousers.

Believe it or not, part of this afternoon's proceedings is a debate about what the Lord Chancellor should wear round his legs. I am firmly in favour of modest pin-stripes. If you think that my choice reveals a depressingly conservative view of sartorial propriety, remember that the alternative is knee breeches and silk stockings. You may think that arguing over such a subject confirms that the House of Lords is a silly anachronism which ought to be abolished forthwith. That is undoubtedly the case. But the debate on Thursday and Friday proved exactly the same point. The subjects were more serious, but there procedures were equally absurd.

On Friday, we examined what parliament calls an Order — regulations promulgated by ministers on the authority of previous legislation. The merits of the argument barely matter. Baroness Black, for the Conservatives, insisted that the parental ballot regulations were biased against the grammar schools, while I had no doubt that, in many cases, they made it almost impossible to secure a majority for ending secondary selection. This is the pattern of House of Lords education debates. Baroness Black fears that the Government is really embarking upon exactly the policies which I hope it will adopt. My hopes and her fears are never realised. Neither of us liked last Friday's Order. Neither did the Liberals. But none of us voted against it since the convention of the Lords decrees otherwise. If there is to be a second House of Parliament it ought to have the confidence which comes from democratic legitimacy. But not using the powers which it possesses confirms that nobody really believes it has a place in a modern parliament.

The House of Lords has, however, used its authority to frustrate the European elections being held "on the party-list system" — a scheme which is an affront to democracy because it requires votes to be cast for party rather than individuals and therefore places the crucial decision on who will be elected in the hands of party officials not the electorate. It is a scheme to which the Liberals take the strongest exception, although they have supported it because Tony Blair told them to. Other peers — perhaps, a little paradoxically — thought it right to stand up for democracy. They have been roundly criticised for doing so.

> The Lords is my retirement present: not a gold watch but a coronet

I sympathise with the critics. Lord Williams of Mostyn, Minister of State at the Home Office, was perfectly entitled to warn the unelected Upper House about the impropriety of frustrating the will of the Commons. Though I suspect that many hereditary peers, knowing that the legislative days are numbered, regarded his warning as prisoners on death row regard complaints that they are rude to warders. If a second chamber has any merit, it exists to protect the people against an elective dictatorship — an unhappy condition which the party list system brings closer. Yet the Lords is inhibited in performing that important task because nobody elected it.

None of the debates which I heard last Thursday concerned the merits of the Government's proposals. It dealt exclusively with whether or not the Lords was entitled to discuss them.

The Commons twice expressed its democratic will and the peers twice exercised their hereditary veto. I was not going to be an accessory to that process. So I abstained. I sit in the Lords because I was once a secretary of state and in consequence was ennobled as a retirement present — a coronet rather than a gold watch. That does not give me the right to frustrate the men and women who stood for election. But somebody ought to have the opportunity and authority to protect the people from authoritarian government.

The problem will not be solved by the removal of the hereditary peers — welcome though that will be as proof that Britain is abandoning its old enthusiasms for hierarchy and deference. But it's hard to argue that an assembly of nominees — whether they are the beneficiaries of prime-ministerial patronage or chosen by a committee of the great and good — have a right to overturn a decision of the Commons. If there has to be a second chamber, it must be elected — not as a replica of the "other place" but as a senate which has the right to prevent and postpone obvious infringements of our liberties. Unless the upper house has been chosen by the people, it ought to spend the time on issues of no consequence. That is why Lord Irvine's trousers are the most appropriate subject that the Lords has discussed for weeks.

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'Ursula Fanthorpe has all the qualities we want in a poet laureate'
Jen Greatrex, Letters

Bridging the gulf

It's Bill 'n' Tony v the rest

IF Bill Clinton is the Harry Houdini of world politics, then surely Saddam Hussein is the Pauline — the young damsel, repeatedly tied to the railway tracks in the face of an oncoming locomotive, somehow sprung to safety seconds before her death. The weekend's events played out like a particularly nail-biting episode of the Perils of Pauline, with Saddam once again cheating mortality — and thwarting the will of the international community. The B-52 bombers carrying multiple cruise missiles were in mid-air when the order to abort came through — a U-turn in the air.

The pattern is becoming repetitive. Baghdad blocks weapons inspectors. World leaders huff and puff in anger. Washington and London gear up to blow Saddam's house down. Saddam offers total climbdown. UN accept it, then read small print to discover climbdown is not total at all, but partial and conditional. Still, Saddam avoids carpet-bombing because moment has passed. Military fireworks get cancelled — or at least postponed. Of course, the immediate reaction to that outcome is relief. Just one week after we remembered the dead of this bloody century, few were eager to add to the total. But the latest round of the Saddam saga has exposed some important weaknesses in the world community, problems which extend far beyond Iraq.

At first, Iraq's defiance brought a reluctant unity to the five permanent members of the Security Council. Saddam Hussein was an offender with a long rap sheet, a proven record not only as a killer of his own people but as a regional bully prepared to invade Kuwait to the south and gas the Kurds to the north. His renewed blocking of the Unscom inspectors last month was a strike against the permanent five of the Security Council but also against Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General who personally agreed a compromise on this matter with Saddam in February. Baghdad was giving the finger to them all. That's why China, Russia and France — who usually lend a more receptive ear to Iraq — were prepared, however reluctantly, to go along with the US and Britain in the planned military action to pound Baghdad into compliance. The genius of Saddam's 11th hour retreat was that he gave just enough to please the French-Russian-Chinese axis, while making sufficient demands to dissatisfy the British and the Americans. The effect was to split a coalition that had begun to glue itself together against him, and to expose the faultline that now separates London and Washington from the rest of the world.

And this is the problem which now confronts Tony Blair and Bill Clinton: how to bridge the gap between the English-speaking powers and the rest of the Security Council. Too often are we at odds with each other, too often are Saddam and other pariahs able to drive a wedge between us. Surely what's needed now is, first, an Iraqi implementation of its commitments — so that a world-threatening programme of chemical and biological weapon production can be seen and eliminated — followed by an effort by Britain and the US to listen to the concerns raised by Paris, Moscow and Beijing. Their desire to see some end to the sanctions imposed on Baghdad since 1991, whose chief victim has been the Iraqi people themselves, cannot be waved aside. A dialogue has to begin across this gulf, the one that splits the world's top table into Tony 'n' Bill versus the rest. Without the heat of crisis, when military action is not just hours away, these two sides need to draw up a common position in time for the next showdown with Saddam, which will come eventually. While they're at it, our leaders need to work out a shared view of what should happen next, after possible bombing and after Saddam. The US, Britain, China, Russia and France need to reach such an understanding soon — before we have to witness another episode of a serial which is becoming painfully familiar.

Poet's choice

Let battle commence

THE race is on, and those of us who relish a good, old-fashioned contest for high office are all but drooling at the prospect. The candidates are in place, their rival claims staked out, the early factions already forming. New Labour may be bent on extinguishing genuine competition from Wales, Scotland and London — preferring to handpick the candidates, lest the voters mess things up — but the British instinct for democracy will not be quashed! Instead it has simply found a different outlet: the race to become our new Poet Laureate.

A new favourite has emerged, thanks in part to this newspaper. We blush slightly as we mention the name of U A Fanthorpe and our own role in bringing her work to wider attention. Last week we realised the death of Ted Hughes meant the nation would be without an official poem to mark the 50th birthday of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Heaven forfend! How could such a great moment in our national life be allowed to pass unremarked? So we took it upon ourselves to commission a Laureate-style work from Ms Fanthorpe. And how she rose to the challenge! Her Brief Résumé at Fifty, published on Saturday, was by turns, playful and melancholic, Hughesian in its evocation of the British landscape, Larkin-esque in its recasting of the mundane. Instantly, the poem was recognised for what it is: a forceful claim on poetry's top job.

Of course, there are other contenders, foremost among them, we hear, Wendy Cope. Her publishers are said to have advised her to stay quiet, but we urge another course. For this is now a campaign, and it should be fought like one. Perhaps the two lead candidates should meet in a presidential-style TV debate, where each one can be challenged. ("Ms Cope, Princess Eugenie is about to turn 16. You have 90 seconds to compose an ode. There will be a 45-second rebuttal from Ms Fanthorpe.") We might see rallies and TV ads, T-shirts and bumper-stickers: "Fanthorpe '98 — Tanned, Rested and Ready." As Michael Portillo knows, he (or she) who dares, wins. Ms Fanthorpe has made the opening bid. Those who wish to beat her must make their move soon.

Letters to the Editor

Poetry and patronage

AT LAST, and at a suitably respectful distance from the death of Ted Hughes, you show us one person not yet mentioned who could do the job: Ursula Fanthorpe (A Brief Résumé At Fifty, November 14). Anyone who has introduced her poems to students and witnessed their enthusiasm at her public readings will agree that she has all the qualities we want in a poet laureate. Her traditions run deep: classical, biblical Shakespeare, Donne, Browning; she does not suffer fools gladly; is tied to: *"This narrow island charged with echoes/And whispers . . ."*; has time for the ordinary person, and understands the medicinal value of irony. Sadly, however, we doubt she would accept the honour.
Jen Greatrex.
Joanna Kirby.
Trudy Pankhurst-Green.
Danuta Reah.
Rotherham,
South Yorkshire.

YOUR item from South Africa (Smoking ban ignites row in South Africa, November 7) suggests that the legislation would make South Africa the first developing country to ban tobacco advertising. We have just returned from Peru, where there is a global ban on smoking in public places. The ban is published with the health warning on all cigarette packets, and is universally observed, apart from the occasional European tourist.
Basil Strong.
London.

RE Geoff Boycott's "boycotting" by the BBC and the Sun, I would like to point out that the BBC and the Sun have both at various times glorified Paul Gascoigne as a wonderful sportsman. Vinnie Jones has appeared on A Question of Sport. Both have a track record of violence.
Joanna Melling.
Winstanley.

IF the Queen were to accept Camilla as Charles's partner (How ever did you put up with me, mummy? November 14), perhaps Prince Philip might pick up some tips on charm and discretion?
Eileen Noakes.
Totnes,
Devon.

To bomb or not to bomb

IT IS ironic that, just as we commemorate the ending 80 years ago of "the war to end war", the UK and US are preparing to go to war again. Just as two world wars failed to end war, so will a Cruise missile attack on Iraq achieve nothing. It will end the work of Unscom for the foreseeable future — for surely Washington and Downing Street do not expect to destroy the Saddam Hussein regime without causing unacceptable "collateral damage" ie civilian deaths. Targeting biological and chemical weapons might well indeed liberate them over a wide area outside Iraq.

This is not to deny that Saddam Hussein is yet again breaching his undertakings, such as they are, to the Security Council and to Kofi Annan himself. But if he is to be overthrown, this must be by Iraqi dissidents. As here in the Blitz, support for Iraq's government will be strengthened and opposition weakened — most of all if the attack is supported by Israel.

An attack may in fact be illegal. Many do not believe one to be permitted by existing Security Council resolutions, certainly not the latest, and Blair and Clinton are well aware that a new resolution calling for an attack would be vetoed by China, France and Russia. A combination of support for Iraqi dissidents, negotiation and containment (as proposed in your Leader of November 11) is not ideal; the Iraqi people will still suffer — and die — from sanctions as long as the regime misuses the oil-for-food and medicines concession. But it is the least unsatisfactory of the options available.
Dr Douglas Holdstock.
Medact.

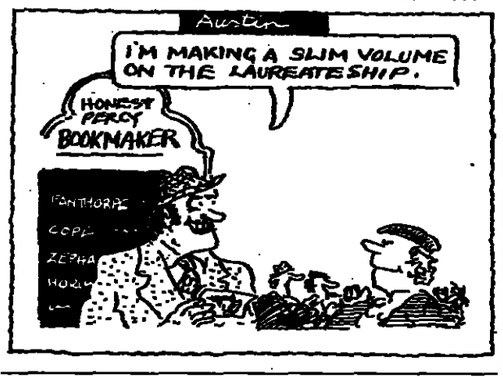
IT IS reported that the US government is spending around *a £1billion* per week building and maintaining an armed force in the Persian Gulf area. Presumably to protect the flow of cheapish oil into its (and our) nation's petrol tanks, overuse of which is leading to environmental changes causing devastating events such as hurricane Mitch in the Gulf of Mexico.
Jock Coats.
Oxford.

SADDAM Hussein deserves a 10 per cent commission from the sale of arms and cost of protection given by the United States and Britain to the Gulf states.

Each time a crisis is triggered in the region, the Gulf States bear the brunt of the financial cost of troops movement and the sale of outdated arms to countries which do not have the manpower and expertise to use them.
Dr Peter Kandela.
Staines, Middx.

LAST week, Tony Blair was in Scotland attacking the Scottish National Party because their policy is to rid Scotland of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq is to be bombed into submission for retaining weapons of mass destruction. Have the lunatics taken over the asylum?
Myra Gartshore.
Dumbarton.

IF THE bombing gets too bad, Saddam can always leave his people to suffer and pop over for a shopping trip to London. As a head of state, he is obviously immune from prosecution — maybe he and Pinochet could meet for lunch at the River Café?
Guy Kitteringham.
Northleigh.



Truth about my friend, Lord Wigg

CHAPMAN Pincher's statement that Lord Wigg told him that he was prosecuted after being "set up" by Harold Wilson is astonishing (Wilson 'set up' spy chief Lord Wigg, November 13).

I was a close friend of George Wigg's for the last 23 years of his life. I gave the oration at his memorial service. I was junior counsel in the case mentioned, and I do no violence to my lifelong duty of confidentiality to a client in stating that neither I nor any of Wigg's other friends I have consulted today ever heard him make such an allegation. Lord Goodman was Wigg's solicitor. He was also Wilson's solicitor. Both Wilson and Goodman attended Wigg's memorial service.

There is no mystery about the delay in opening Wigg's papers at the LSE. They are voluminous and have had to await their turn in being catalogued. Nor is there any mystery about his executor. It is I.

Further, the papers do not "contain bloody dynamite". They are rather boring.
Roy Roebuck.
London.

Why scare stories about mobiles don't ring true

YOUR article on the health risks of mobile phones doesn't mention the strong evidence that the use of mobile phones while driving increases the risk of accidents (Mobile phones get an unhealthy image, November 14). This is important because car accidents are a common cause of death and disability in young people: therefore any increase in risk will cause a lot of misery.

Brain tumours are, by contrast, rare. But whether they might be caused by mobile phones is still an important question. Unfortunately, we don't know the answer. Your article does say — in the seventh paragraph — that "nobody really knows" about the safety of mobile phones, but I don't think that's the message your readers will take away from the article.

Considerable prominence is given to the story of a young man who developed Hodgkin's disease "in exactly the same position as I used to hold my phone". The man understandably assumes that his tumour has been caused by the phone, but it's almost certainly chance. Both Hodgkin's disease and use of mobile phones are common, and you would expect hundreds, even thousands, of cases to occur in people who have used phones.

Then you quote a man who stands to make money from worries about the safety of phones as having received "more than 3000 calls . . . from people who have fallen ill, including with tumours". So what? If I start a scare tomorrow that digital television causes health problems it won't take me any time to collect that many calls. Proper epidemiological evidence will be needed to ascertain whether mobile phones cause brain tumours.

Researchers will question those who have brain tumours and closely matched controls (people of the same age and sex) about use of mobile phones, but their results may be hard to interpret for at least two reasons. People know that mobile phones may cause brain tumours and so those who have brain tumours may be more likely to remember any phone use. Next, it may be that tumours are associated with longer phone calls, and will people be able to remember how long they used their phones for?
Richard Smith.
Editor, British Medical Journal.
London.

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Women playwrights' brief script

LYN GARDNER, writing about women playwrights, gets the story right when she implies that we've been silenced since Aphra Behn in the 17th century (Silent treatment, November 11).

The reason that women do so much better in TV than in theatre is that TV writing demands a fairly strict formula. It stems from Aristotle and highlights story-telling, conflict and a particular structure and it has been followed by most male dramatists down through the ages. Theatre, in spite of the fact that it has an older, middle class audience, is much more open to new ideas than TV.

Women's plays are drowned out by our theatrical powers-that-be; how many plays currently running in the West End are written by women?

If, in the last 20 years, it seems that women's plays have tended to be about upbeat losers, this does not necessarily reflect what was being written — these were the plays deemed acceptable by the newly liberalised theatre establishment. The upbeat losers are dying out but there's still no backing for the plays that don't fit the mould.

Women's natural inclination is to break with prescribed formats, but it's still a sad fact that their work is "fringed".

These plays are not a decoration on a somewhat battered lampshade — they are the light bulb and may even illuminate what is seen as a dying art. TV has done us the great disservice of further sealing us into what is acceptable in terms of form — theatre can't afford to imitate, it needs to pioneer and take a leaf out of the book of this country's visual artists.
Margaret Hollingsworth.
(playwright)
London.

Poor service

AT last a car manufacturer has admitted that price fixing does operate in the UK car market (Car chief admits failure to cut prices, November 12). Vauxhall have simply confirmed what we knew all along — that UK consumers are being ripped off in comparison to consumers in the rest of the EU. We pay between 10 and 60 per cent more for the best-selling cars because many manufacturers continue to place obstacles in the way of people trying to buy cars more cheaply in Europe and by operating an anti-competitive distributive system. The root of the problem is the block exemption system that allows car manufacturers to set up exclusive dealer networks under the justification of improving service levels when it is actually a price fixing arrangement.
Sheila McKechnie.
Director, Consumers' Association.

Arts should not remain a Lottery

THE Arts will always depend on those with bright ideas. Indeed many of the bright enthusiasts who initiated and drove forward those early Lottery-funded projects now coming to fruition were, in managerial terms, essentially amateurs.

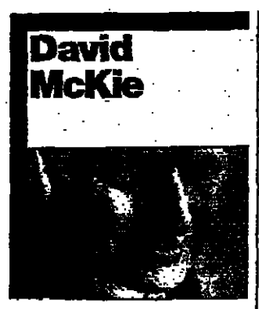
The country is becoming littered, as Dan Glaister (Lottery windfalls that bring a double bind, November 11) suggests, with excellent people whose projects have outgrown their managerial prowess and who are then dumped on the scrapheap.

Even the Arts Council foresaw the problems likely to stem from a vast building programme in the almost certain absence of any meaningful level of extra funding to sustain staffing and programming. Overwhelmingly, state-supported arts organisations became lean and tight some years ago. Gone are the days when either Arts Council or Regional Arts Board could remove revenue funding from a "failed" client organisation in order to fund a new initiative. Why was this not admitted and why was a competitive system of hurdle jumping continued, one in which the many inevitably felt a strong sense of failure? One might question why managerial "flying squads" weren't sent out by the Arts Council (the RABs were grossly under-staffed) to help those in difficulty.

One is driven to ask why the arts bureaucracies so much prefer the racetrack approach, with each hurdle and even the winning post, littered with Lottery victims?

It is simply about power, the preference being for grateful supplicants (and victims), rather than a transparent, co-operative system to ensure a genuine and happy process of cultural renewal?
Hugh Adams.
Bristol.

Watching the detectives


David McKie

I FEAR we have seen the last of Inspector Morse. Not the end of Inspector Morse as portrayed in Colin Dexter's original novels, but Morse as played by John Thaw in the television adaptations, with his Wagner and his weatherbeaten integrity, his booze and his crosswords, his characteristic cry of "Lew-iss", his music by Barrington Pheloung. Malcolm Bradbury's screenplay for last week's version of Dexter's novel, The Wench Is Dead, appears to have been the TV Morse's equivalent of the Reichenbach Falls. In the novel, as in the film, Morse is forced to do his detecting from hospital, where he's undergoing treatment for an ulcer which is largely the product of too much booze. (How fortunate for Central TV that Morse has been sponsored latterly by a bank, and not, as before, by a brewer.)

What isn't in the book, however, is the harping on the theme of early retirement. Morse was hardly tucked up in his hospital bed before the dread words were spoken by his mordant superior, Chief Superintendent Grout. (Before anyone writes to Corrections and Clarifications: yes, I know that Grout is the actor, and the Chief Superintendent is called Strange. But Grout, with its echoes of "stout" and "grouchy", is much the more appropriate name.) In the TV version, anyway, a sense of impending mortality seemed to be haunting both Morse and Strange/Grout. "Go with dignity," the superintendent told his stricken subordinate. "You're the best detective in all Thames Valley. Why not quit while you're ahead?" Later Grout/Strange confided to Morse's girlfriend that he was feeling terminal too. "I shan't be there much longer myself," he confessed. "I can't stand it, frankly."

These were not the only liberties Bradbury took with Dexter. He'd also imported a tedious American criminologist (female), presumably because studio bosses insisted on having an American character in the hope of getting American sales.

Even Morse's faithful girlfriend — well, mature woman friend, if we're going to be accurate, but even women of 60-plus get described as girl friends in newspapers nowadays — seemed to have been imported from some other Dexter story. Even more disconcertingly, Lewis was missing, since his actor, Kevin Whately, wasn't available. Yet, fond as I am of Lewis, this change was perhaps the most therapeutic of all, since it enabled Malcolm Bradbury to smuggle into the story a young fast-track graduate policeman called Kershaw (Keble College, first in history) who, while Morse was tucked up, did most of the leg work.

THE result was a splendid evocation of the pleasures of academic research (itself a form of detection) and the way in which hours of tedious poring over ancient microfilmed newspapers, or struggling to decipher documents filled out in a flowery Victorian hand, or wading through box after box of unsorted papers, can sometimes be a thrilling experience, as at last one turns up, perhaps in a footnote, perhaps in some dim subordinate clause, the revelatory line which unlocks some recalcitrant mystery.

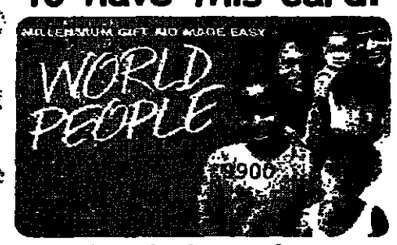
It always surprises me that cloisterly libraries aren't regularly disrupted by ecstatic celebrations. The most exuberant demonstration I have seen so far was a display of high fives by a couple in the Family Records Centre who had no doubt just unravelled some riddle concerning a long lost aunt.

A few weeks ago, at the British Newspaper Library, I found in a report on a bankruptcy proceeding the solution to a mystery which had dogged me for months: why had the wife of the great Victorian fraudster Jabez Spencer Balfour MP dropped out of his life at around the age of 30, only to reappear in her early seventies? Where had she been in the meantime?

The temptation then to rise from my seat in the microfilm unit, punching the air, and emitting a shout of "yes!" was like nothing else since Lawrie Sanchez headed Wimbledon's winning goal against Liverpool in the FA Cup Final of 1988. But these things are not done in libraries; which is possibly why ill-informed people think they are boring.

Profound thanks, anyway, to John Thaw and all others concerned for creating the only TV detective, apart from Sherlock Holmes, to whom I ever looked forward. What a shame that Morse can't take some of the others into retirement with him, especially boring old Wexford. Malcolm Bradbury could then write a series which found the whole lot living together in some retirement home in the country: one by one they would all be bumped off until only Morse was left. Even now, we can't be entirely sure that John Thaw won't ride again. At the time, the whole world supposed the toppling of Holmes from the Reichenbach falls must have been fatal. Even Conan Doyle thought so. But mercifully, all were wrong.

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Comment
Iraq Crisis

First Person

Tam Dalyell

IT IS the conventional wisdom that Britain is simply tagging on behind Washington over Iraq. But Iraqis blame the British not a whit less than the Americans.

As Dr Khaled el Qubaisi, Phd in international law at King's College, London, put it to former Irish prime minister Albert Reynolds and myself last Sunday night at the home in Iraq of deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz: "The Foreign Office have the most expert diplomats of any country in the world. The Americans could not draft such difficult resolutions at the United Nations. They have used their expertise to make Iraq look in the wrong in the eyes of the world."

Foreign minister Mohammed al Sahaf went further in a separate meeting. "We Iraqis are deeply hurt by the attitude of Britain. Many of us were educated in England or Scotland. Our culture is British, our educational system was based on British practice. Our health service, the best of any Arab country before 1990, was based on the NHS. And now the British Government won't even talk to us properly, on terms of some dignity."

The four Irishmen with whom I travelled all assented vigorously to the Iraqi suggestion that the English were very bad at trying to understand the position of those with whom they disagreed. The foreign minister asked plaintively why such different criteria should apply to Iraq and Israel. He pointed to the fact that not only was United States secretary of state Madeleine Albright Jewish, but so was US defence secretary William Cohen, and special adviser David Levy, and national security adviser Sandy Berger.

What should a Gentile say to Iraqis who ask whether it is fair that decisions to bomb should be made by those whose agenda is linked with the perceived interests of Israel?

As on my visit to Baghdad in 1994, I judged that the technocrat ministers were people of high quality and seriousness of purpose. The health minister — and Kurd — Dr Mubarrak, was in his department from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, seven days a week.

The notion that is put around that Iraqi ministers do not care about their people is, from my observation, cheap propaganda. One said: "You see the appalling state of our schools. We have children and grandchildren. Our families go to the shattered school system; the students in our families go to Baghdad University. It was once one of the great universities of the world; now it is starved of resources. Our families have to go to the public hospitals."

> They complained to me that Madeleine Albright was Jewish

Indeed, I had seen the teaching hospital. Tears welled up in the eyes of my tough Irish companions, Reynolds, Senator Michael Lanigan, Peter Doyle and Brian Griffin. No wonder. Distraught mothers, sitting on plastic sheeting, looked helplessly at children with hours to live.

George Robertson and Tony Blair were rightly greatly moved by the carnage of infants at Dunblane. Five infants die each day at this hospital in Baghdad. Is this the city (which I was told has two ambulances without oxygen and no working fire engine because of the lack of spare parts) on which members of a Labour Government wish to hurl the most modern and dreadful weapons of war?

I am convinced the northern Arabs who are tough, proud people going back to the Assyrians, ought to be welcomed back into the family of nations.

What the foreign minister wanted last week, as did everyone else we met, was that before bombs rain down on their population, at the very least a serious delegation of officials should go to Baghdad and talk about the whole problem.

Following the weekend's eleventh-hour developments, that doesn't seem very much to ask.

Tam Dalyell is Labour MP for Linlithgow.



America's emergency is mainly about allies, nukes and oil

State of anxiety

In an age that threatens biological warfare, the US is losing control

Paul Rogers

WHILE the primary aim of Saddam Hussein's regime is to stay in power, its longer-term aim is to rebuild its status as a major regional force. Among many policies required to achieve these aims, two stand out — to end United Nations sanctions and to maintain the ability to deploy weapons of mass destruction, especially biological weapons.

Until very recently, the United States was prepared to rely primarily on the UN weapons inspectors (Unscom) and the maintenance of sanctions to counter both policies. Unscom would work to control the weapons programmes while sanctions would keep the regime in a thoroughly weakened state. Whatever its public rhetoric, Washington was intent on maintaining sanctions at least until the regime collapsed.

In the past three weeks US policy has undergone a profound shift, having effectively given up on Unscom. It now envisages a harsh process of containment, not least through the use of strong military force to strike at the heart of the regime — its elite forces, intelligence and communications organisations and weapons industries.

The process was well under way by Saturday, with weeks of bomber and cruise missile strikes being planned to bring the regime to its knees.

While much of the change in policy stems from Bill Clinton's relief from domestic pressures after the mid-term election successes, it also follows the experience of the last major crisis nine months ago. The Iraqi regime survived that crisis intact, having had time to disperse and conceal key aspects of its biological warfare infrastructure, but it was required to accept a continuing and intrusive inspection regime.

During the summer and early autumn, Iraq progressively interfered with the weapons inspections and, by the time of the US elections, Unscom was effectively defunct. Saddam was most likely anticipating an election result that would further weaken Clinton, enabling Iraq to gather further support for the relief of sanctions. But he miscalculated in three ways.

First, the election went Clinton's way, enabling him to turn his attention to international issues. Second, the US began at last to put some pressure on Israel, relieving some of the anti-American tensions in the Gulf. Finally, Gulf oil producers, burdened by low oil prices, could see some advantage in a renewed war with Iraq bringing a price surge, as the regime was crippled.

The result was the US action planned to start 36 hours ago — a military campaign exceeding any of the raids of recent years. It is even likely that it would have been larger than the raids planned last February but averted by UN general-secretary Kofi Annan's intervention. Those raids were expected to last a month, with up to 1,500 civilian casualties.

At the last minute, Saddam realised his mistake and offered just enough of a climbdown to force Clinton to recall the bombers, while falling far short of a complete capitulation. The US, along with Britain, is left with an escalating military momentum but a lack of international agreement. Even so, with Clinton cancelling his Asian tour, it is by no means certain that military strikes will be avoided.

The seven-year programme of sanctions is simply not working. The regime remains in place, with its elite of up to a million people doing remarkably well, not least through the proceeds of massive oil smuggling operations. Meanwhile the experience of millions of ordinary Iraqis is dire, with at least 6,000 children dying every month from malnutrition.

BUT there are huge dangers in taking massive military action against Saddam's regime. One of Iraq's most remarkable achievements in the 1980s was to build up a comprehensive biological warfare programme in just five years, so much so that at the time of the 1991 war it had missiles and bombs, armed with anthrax and botulinum, ready to use if the regime were threatened with destruction.

Even with the undoubted successes of the Unscom inspections, Iraq is well-nigh certain to have a hidden biological warfare capability that would be used if US military action began to strike at the heart of the regime. Put bluntly, a second Gulf war could all too easily get out of control.

This was exactly what happened with a major war-game at the US naval war college a couple of years ago. In that scenario, the Iraqi regime's survival was threatened, it used biological weapons to great effect and the US retaliated with a nuclear strike.

It is possible that the weekend's events have given us a breathing space. If so, a further crisis with all its potential dangers will only be avoided if there is a change of policy towards Iraq. The whole sanctions programme has to be reviewed, with a revised system developed that relieves the pressure on the great majority of the Iraqi people, not least through a greatly increased but externally managed food-for-oil scheme.

Sanctions should be concentrated on the regime itself and its supporting elite, focusing, for example, on its finances, specialised imports, transport and travel, and probably including a total no-fly zone to hinder its internal operations. This will require much regional support, which will in turn only be possible if the Middle East peace process gets fully back on track.

While there is no guarantee that this will work, it is a much wiser course of action than risking a war that could easily escalate out of control.

Iraq is a prototype of the kind of conflict likely to face us in the coming decades. Weapons proliferation is now making it easier for weak states to stand up to strong ones. Crises involving weapons of mass destruction are likely to occur and, as with Iraq, it is dangerous to assume that such crises are readily amenable to military solutions. At a time when the US sees itself as the world's sole superpower, it may actually be starting to lose control.

The post-cold war world demands fundamental rethinking of our ideas about international security, and there is little evidence that this has begun. Even so, if a way can be found to handle the Iraq crisis without a potentially disastrous resort to force, it might give us experience that will be invaluable in approaching the disorderly world of the early 21st century.

Paul Rogers is professor of peace studies at Bradford University.

Martin Walker



IT IS not generally known that the United States has been in an official state of emergency since November 1994, when President Bill Clinton first declared it, "with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the US posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and the means of delivering them".

Last Thursday, with a discreet announcement in the Federal Register, he formally extended the state of emergency again, continuing the extraordinary powers this gives him over military operations and the reserves, and the authority to draw on civilian resources.

It was first called after earlier Iraqi blustering, and a comment by India's then chief of staff on the main lesson of the Gulf war: that in the single-superpower world, a middle-ranking state planning to assert itself had better acquire a nuclear weapon.

In a scenario under which Iraq made another lightning grab for Kuwait, began exploiting the oil and declared that it had a nuclear weapon and would use it to defend its gains, the Pentagon concluded that its options would be few. The strategy therefore focuses on preventing Iraq from acquiring WMDs, the Washington acronym for weapons of mass destruction.

"The goal of our policy is to counter the threat Iraq poses to its neighbours, particularly the threat that would be posed if Iraq acquired WMDs and the means to deliver them," the state department spokesman declared on the day that the state of emergency was extended. He added that since the United Nations inspectors "have not been operating for eight of the last 12 months ... in a matter of months, they [the Iraqis] could reconstitute their WMDs".

To Washington, the overall strategic situation is now more perilous than when the state of emergency was first declared, largely because of the collapse of the oil price. It is still dropping, from $12.91 for a barrel of Brent crude on November 3, to $12.04 on November 10.

During the first Iraq crisis of 1990, the price hit $35, which helped Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to pay the US and Britain $40 billion for their deliverance. But the Saudi state budget is now $13 billion in the red, after oil earnings fell from $45 billion last year to under $30 billion this year.

The domestic political implications of the Saudi monarchy's straitened circumstances are grim for the US, which has established a formidable military base in the region, from the Dhahran airfield to the Fifth Fleet base at Bahrain. The Saudi monarchy has got into the addictive habit of buying such grudging public support as it has, and now the money has run out.

And yet Washington's military base in the Gulf is all the more necessary, because the sphere of strategic interest has extended dramatically with the new US (and British) investments in the oil and gas fields of the Caspian basin. The region, from the US air base at Incirlik in Turkey, through the Middle East to the Caspian and the Gulf, is becoming an American protectorate.

Both the strategy and the investments help to explain the reluctance of European allies to join the new Anglo-American military effort. Denmark's token contribution of one military transport aircraft may not be unconnected to defence minister Hans Haekkerup's hopes to succeed Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, next year.

But it amounts to a pretty thin contribution from a Europe which depends far more than Britain and the US on Gulf oil, and makes a mockery of Europe's "common foreign and security policy".

There is a deeper American anxiety, beyond the personal ambition of Clinton to topple Saddam Hussein. There already is an Islamic bomb in Pakistan, so far with limited delivery capacity. But Pakistan is bankrupt and its government insecure.

> The entire region up to the Caspian is becoming a US protectorate

It may be a remote prospect, but the gruesome combination of fundamentalist regimes taking power in both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia must now be the stuff of Pentagon contingency planning, to assess whether their bases and the West's oil supply could still be secured.

These are the parameters that made it so galling for Clinton to hold back, now that he had regained the personal authority and the nerve to admit that the UN inspections and sanctions were failing to contain Iraq.

But Saddam or no Saddam, America's oilmen and its military must now reckon with the fear that one day they will face the prospect of a mullah with a nuke, squatting astride the jugular of the industrialised world.

Any day, I'd rather have the UN's Kofi Annan dealing with the Iraq crisis than Americans with the mentality of Dr Strangelove

Bomber Bill

Ian Aitken

THE tendency of truth to outdo fiction is at its most gloriously obvious in the world of peaked caps, brass buttons and scrambled egg. The suits in the US state department may be prone to perpetrate the odd fiasco, but we have learned to recognise that they are amateurs in comparison with the Pentagon.

Thus Dr Strangelove, surely Peter Sellers's greatest screen creation, almost stepped through the looking glass and into the real world at the weekend. As the B-52 bombers winged their way across half the globe, carrying 200-odd cruise missiles earmarked for the task of toppling Saddam Hussein, we came within an hour of war on Saturday.

But what if the computer on just one of those bombers had been on the blink, and the order to abort the mission had gone unheard?

That you will remember is what happened in the fictional Dr Strangelove, and the world was plunged into a nuclear war by a crazed American air force general in a stetson hat.

The American military's record is not good in these matters. The recent cruise missile attack on Afghanistan was designed to take out another Western *bête noir*, Osama bin Laden, and was based on high quality intelligence information about his whereabouts. But there must have been something wrong, because Bin Laden is still in the land of the living.

The simultaneous attack on Sudan was even more idiotic, involving the destruction of what later turned out to be little more than a corner chemist's shop in Khartoum. Yet this, too, was based on "reliable" intelligence information that the site in question was a factory making nerve gas for terrorists. Miraculously, no one was killed, but the price paid by Britain for supporting the operation was to have its ambassador expelled and its hopes of brokering peace in Sudan sharply diminished.

The same "smart bombs" and the same "reliable" intelligence that flattened the Sudanese equivalent of Boots would, we are told, enable the US air force to bring down Saddam from 35,000ft without a single Western casualty.

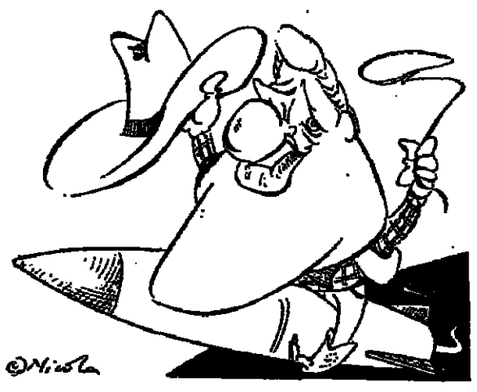
ANYONE prepared to believe this would be prepared to believe that the American war in Vietnam was a triumph. Yet that war — in which an army of peasants in straw hats and black pyjamas defeated the world's greatest war machine — provides the ultimate proof that the Pentagon is almost always wrong.

It was a war founded on the accepted US military wisdom that "when you've got them by the balls, their hearts and mind will follow". The Pentagon's error at the time was that it didn't appreciate who had whom by the balls.

There is plenty more evidence available to the US people of the Pentagon's imbecility, should Vietnam be insufficient. Take, for instance the fiasco of President Jimmy Carter's attempt to rescue the staff of the American embassy in Tehran, who had been taken hostage in the coup which toppled the Shah.

It was a typical piece of Pentagon gung-ho, no doubt inspired by Israel's success at Entebbe. But the generals sent in helicopters with air intakes which sucked up sand. Not surprisingly, they wouldn't work in the desert.

And what about the American intervention in Somalia? The marines came up the beaches under television lights, amid much trumpeting of PR brass. But the Somali warlords proved cleverer than them, a lot of young GIs died in gruesome circumstances, and the US army pulled out again with its tail between its legs, humiliated by a bunch of thugs. The only lesson drawn from this frightful experience was that soldiering on the ground produces body-bags, so let's do it from a safe height in future.



Then there was the bombing of Libya, designed to take out Colonel Muammar Gadafy. As usual, the bombs missed, killing innocent people instead. Or the invasion of the Commonwealth island of Grenada, with the purpose of bringing down a Marxist regime there. A vast armada was assembled to do this trivial job, but they forgot to tell Mrs Thatcher or the Queen. Both were furious, and the great Thatcher/Reagan love affair was briefly under serious strain.

And let's not forget the mother of all fiascos, the Bay of Pigs. It was planned by the CIA, endorsed by the Pentagon and authorised by the saintly President Kennedy. But its only long term effect was to give substance to Fidel Castro's strongest card with his own people: that the *gringos* were out to get them. It led directly to the Cuban missile crisis, which very nearly made Dr Strangelove a reality.

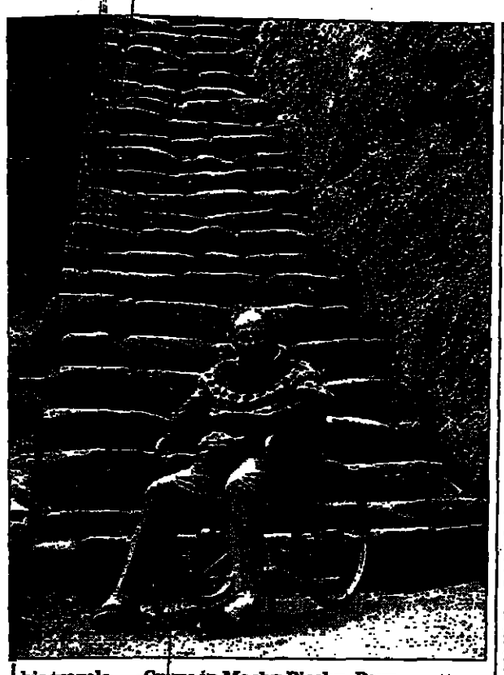
Most of these events are laughable as well as frightening. Frankly I don't believe Saddam can be brought down from the air and I am astonished that anyone in either the American or the British government believes it either.

For myself, I prefer the UN's Kofi Annan to Dr Strangelove any day.

هكذا من الاصل

Quentin Crewe

An aristocratic taste for adventure



his travels . . . Crewe in Machu Picchu, Peru

QUENTIN CREWE, who has died on his 72nd birthday, was an aristocrat and satirist who invented himself as the first restaurant critic in Britain and went on to create serious travel literature from his wheelchair. His life was a barometer of painful yet, for him, exhilarating social change.

Crewe was the grandson on his mother's side of the Marquess of Crewe. Her family regarded his British consul father as incurably middle class. It was little wonder that Crewe grew up with little sense of truly belonging anywhere. This feeling could not have been helped by the doctors' pronouncement that he would be dead of muscular dystrophy by the age of 16.

With his flaxen curls and cherub face, young Quentin was good at commanding attention by recitations, and became a personable young man who had entrée to all the great houses of Britain — and the ear of powerful press barons.

It was not really surprising that years later, when the muscular dystrophy had not killed him but had consigned his six-feet-one frame to a wheelchair, he not only travelled to and wrote about dangerous parts of the world but also wheeled his chair into highly combative radio shows like Robert Robinson's *Stop the Week*, enjoying an aristocrat's confidence that he need not bother that his head was two feet below everyone else's because the world would come to him.

He was always attractive to the rich and influential. He virtually moved into the Macmillans' Birch Grove, falling unsuccessfully in love with Harold's daughter Sarah and inspiring her mother, Lady Dorothy, to have chats with him while sitting on the edge of his bath. He had a similar, though less close, surrogate-mother relationship with Lady Violet Bonham Carter.

Percy Lubbock, the portly, rich and almost blind critic and author of what is still regarded as the best book on the construction of the novel, *The Craft of Fiction*, employed Crewe as secretary and reader-aloud in his handsome villa near Harold Acton's in Italy. Lubbock's affection for Crewe became deep and he suggested him as substitute when he could not do some reviewing for the Times Literary Supplement.

It was Crewe's first published article and the cruelty from Lubbock's point of view was that it made Crewe restless. In 1963 he returned to London where Robert Boothby, reportedly Lady Dorothy's lover and Sarah's father, and certainly a ready admirer of young men, invited him to lunch with John Junor, then deputy editor of the Evening Standard. Junor asked him to do an article on Monte Carlo, which, it was rumoured, was about to become the victim of a virtual takeover bid by the shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis.

Finding no evidence of this, Crewe wrote such a funny piece that he was given a job at £15 a week. At the Standard he wrote leaders, then Londoner's Diary, then features.

By the time he joined the new magazine Queen, launched by his friend, the resourceful and manic Jocelyn Stevens, he was more used to the ways of the Fourth Estate. Queen published a regular list of restaurants, each with a one-line comment. When the girl who did this fell ill, Crewe, who was going out to lunch, offered to fill the space by writing about the restaurant. As it was Wilton's, full of influential and picturesque diners, he let rip, describing the atmosphere and decor as much as the food and creating an art form which only later, in less sensitive hands, was to sink into pretentious flatulence. "No one," Crewe was to recall, "had ever written about restaurants in this way. I became the restaurant correspondent."

THERE WAS another side to Crewe. Even as a public schoolboy at Eton, Crewe had sympathised with the underdog, once begging his father, then British consul to Monaco, to help a German Jewish refugee who had been blinded by Gestapo torturers.

At the Daily Mail, which he joined when the fun ran out at Queen, he took over the gossip column, refusing to write about royalty, divorces, family rows and pregnancies (virtually the entire content of the average gossip column). He intended to focus on people who were doing positive and intelligent things. This revolutionary creed caused clashes with the editor, perhaps not helped by the knowledge that Crewe was also writing sketches for the BBC TV political and social satire show *That Was the Week That Was*.

In 1964 he started to write a column for the more leftwing Sunday Mirror — "more fun than any job I have had" — which lasted for seven years. He went to Saudi Arabia, where he got stuck in the desert with no water and resisted attempts to kill one of his Saudi helpers who appeared to be demented and a danger.

In South Africa, where he was sent to report on how things were "getting better for the blacks and coloureds", he reported how under apartheid they were getting much worse. He thought such pieces the most valuable journalism he wrote; and they paved the way for his travel books on South America (*In the Realms of Gold*), India and the Sahara — all from a wheelchair pushed by willing young men, and using a fold-up commode designed by an accompanying photographer. He always saw the dirt as well as the gold, but found the effect of revolutions depressing.

He also produced several books on food, for many of which he also travelled: for *Foods From France*, for instance, he wheeled his way through the French regions.

Even a 10-year stint in the inherited Madeley Hall in Staffordshire, where he farmed and tried to build a whole village to replace disused mineworks — a forerunner of Prince Charles's similar efforts — did not subdue his quietly ebullient nature, even though officialdom finally beat him and he retreated to live abroad.

He was married three times, sympathising with all three wives about the strain his disability and the travel bug caused. They were the American Martha Sharp, by whom he had a son and daughter; the novelist Angela Huth, by whom he had a daughter and a son (since deceased) and the aristocrat Susan Cavendish, second cousin of Sarah Macmillan, by whom he had a son and a daughter. He remained on good terms with each.

Crewe radiated a positive atmosphere. Despite the whittling away of his own privileged class, overall he thought the world a better place than when he had entered it.

Dennis Barker

Quentin Crewe, critic, columnist, travel writer, born November 14, 1926; died November 14, 1998.

Valerie Hobson

Star of screen and scandal

VALERIE HOBSON, who has died aged 81, was an actress who played in fantasy and for real the pre-1960s English dream woman: beautiful, clothes-conscious, even-tempered, a trifle nannyish, but a reliably unshatterable rock in time of trouble.

She played the role many times for the British stage and cinema, ending as the English teacher of the monarch in *The King and I* at Drury Lane. After this, amid much publicity about a golden pair who could well end up in 10 Downing Street, she gave up acting to marry the rising government minister John Profumo. In less than a decade she was supporting her disgraced husband after it was discovered that he had shared the favours of Christine Keeler with a Soviet diplomat while he was Minister for War, the scandal which helped bring down Harold Macmillan as Prime Minister.

It was Hobson who first produced a dry towel for Keeler at Cliveden after the girl's own towel had been soaked during horseplay around the pool in which she had been swimming naked. It indicated the same mixture of decency and decorum that had powered her work as an actress. Those who called her only a clothes-horse without warmth of feeling were to be proved wrong when disaster struck, just as those who thought her generosity (once, told that a friend's domestic servant had run out of cigarettes, she casually gave her a box of 200) was no more than a fair-weather phenomenon in a privileged woman were to be proved wrong.

If the *grande dame* role in its late reality was less rewarding than it had been in fiction, Hobson's strong sculpted features never betrayed it publicly during the more than 30 dignified years between disaster and her death. She never recanted on the vow she had made to give up acting after her marriage, but the repeated screenings of her best films of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s was enough to keep memories of her fresh.

The sight of her indulging in pious chit-chat in the stately garden with Dennis Price as the avenging class-war assassin in *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, playing the oblivious wife of the high-born inventor who has just been blown up in great puffs of smoke clearly visible behind her, was one of the joys of British cinema. She was especially good in Her Ladyship roles, including the ally and patron of Arnold Bennett's *The Card*, played by Alec Guinness.

The daughter of a Royal Navy captain, she was born in Larne in Northern Ireland during the first world war. At the age of two she loved wrapping a bath towel around herself and pretending to be the Queen of Sheba. At three she took dancing lessons and appeared at concerts as Cupid, dressed in pink tulle and carrying a silver bow and arrow. At five she was taken to London twice a week from the family home in Hampshire to be taught ballet by the fashionable teacher Espinosa. These lessons were intended to give her "grace," a great middle-class parental ambition of the era.

The ambition was especially powerful in the case of Hobson, who by her own account was then far less attractive than her sister. "I've thought this out carefully," she once said, "why I went on the stage. Why I needed an audience. I was a very plain, wishy-washy child. Large wistful eyes. A real gum-drop. Awful. My sister was exquisite. She could never believe this pasty-faced mouse was her sister. Everybody called me Monkey."

The ballet classes helped point her towards the stage. She had no doubt she would succeed; as in her adult life, she could not concede the possibility of failure. She was quick and moved well. Then a spell of scarlet fever confined her to bed and by the time she got up again she was too tall for ballet.

She was only nine when she heard at the ballet school that the great impresario C B Cochran was holding an audition for *White Birds*. She persuaded her nanny to let her peep inside the stage door, then dashed into the theatre where she literally bumped into Cochran himself. He was so charmed by her spirit that he promised her a role and offered to bill her as the youngest dancer in Britain. Her parents vetoed it, but Cochran persuaded the Hobsons to let her go to RADA.

> After the war she was rarely absent from any British film requiring her blend of stately, disciplined beauty

At 15 she worked for Basil Foster in *Orders Are Orders* and was then spotted in a smart restaurant, dining with her father, by Oscar Hammerstein II. He offered her a part in *Ball at the Savoy* at Drury Lane. Later she gatecrashed an audition for Noel Coward's *Conversation Piece* after stopping him on the pavement as Coward and Cochran arrived in the same car. The tactics of a hard grafter went hand in hand, even then, with a serene and ladylike composure — though she herself hated the adjective ladylike, protesting that just because she "didn't walk up Bond Street on her hands" didn't mean she was a nullity.

She left a Cochran play to take up, at 17, a Hollywood offer that had her, under a Universal contract, making six films, usually in horror epics like *The Bride of Frankenstein*, *The Werewolf of London* and *The Great Impersonation*. Back in London at 19, she was offered the lead in *Jump for Joy* by Douglas Fairbanks Junior. She saw this as the turning point in her career.

Soon the London-based Hungarian producer Alexander Korda discovered her and cast her in the stiff-upper-lip drama *The Drum*, making her the first British film star to be filmed in Technicolor. At a lunch at Pinewood studios after the film was completed, she met the producer Anthony Havelock-Allan, who became her first husband and by whom she had a son, Simon — who was born mentally disabled, sent to a home and died early — and another son, Mark.

Her future was assured with a Korda long-term contract and appearances in Denham studio productions of *Q Planes* with Laurence Olivier and Ralph Richardson, *The Spy In Black* with Conrad Veidt and *This Man Is News*, made by Havelock-Allan with her on loan from Korda. After the war she was rarely absent from any British film requiring her blend of stately, disciplined beauty, including Estella in David Lean's *Great Expectations* in 1946.

When she married John Profumo she was — as a rarity — back on the stage for *The King and I* at Drury Lane. The producers would not let her curtail her contract but her subsequent pregnancy — she and Profumo had one son — and a doctor's letter changed their minds. She lived handsomely and uneventfully as Mrs Profumo in a Nash-designed house in Regent's Park until scandal reared its head, after which she kept her dignity and helped her husband with his long-time charity work at Toynbee Hall in the East End.

Dennis Barker

Valerie Hobson, actress, born April 14, 1917; died November 13, 1998



Class act . . . Valerie Hobson kept her dignity intact after the disgrace of her husband, John Profumo

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A Country Diary

CASTRO VERDE, PORTUGAL: Just an hour north of the tourist conurbations in the Algarve lies a region known as the Alentejo (which translates as "beyond the Tagus"). Occupying most of central Portugal, it is one of the poorest, most sparsely populated regions in the country. In the Lower Alentejo there are no cities or large towns and the country comprises open rolling plains interspersed with olive or cork-oak groves. But to the east of Castro Verde the land sheds even this agricultural variety and spreads as a vast steppe. The only relief in this empty and magical landscape is provided by the odd stream, which has incised a folded course through the tableland, or by an occasional crumbling outcrop — an ancient relic of some seam of harder stone. During our visit the entire panorama was a subtle mixture of terracotta, ash and pale ochre, while above thick November clouds pressed down on the place like an endless slate. Together these elements created a strange, contradictory mood — of seasonal exhaustion and of sombre grandeur; but also of anticipation, as if so quiet and colourless a place must be the scene for something unexpected. And for us it certainly was. As we drove along a flock of white-winged birds rose briefly in alarm at a pair of passing ravens. When they landed we recognised them as Little Bustards, long-legged, long-necked steppe-dwelling birds that have been driven from many countries by modern agricultural methods. Iberia now holds half the world's population and their distribution in the peninsula defines the parameters of Europe's last great steppeland — a roughly rectangular block running south-west to north-east across Spain and Portugal. Our birds were a wintering flock of 250, which, in 20 years of watching these rare birds, was the largest congregation I'd ever seen. My previous best was only 11, and I'd seen this group just an hour earlier on the same day.

MARK COCKER

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A REPORT headed, After 80 years, the funerals go on, page 3, November 9, we referred to the funeral in Holland last month of John Watherston Menzies "of Staffordshire". J W Menzies, DFC, was, in fact, a Surrey man. He had served in the Staffordshire Regiment before becoming a pilot with 161 Special Duties Squadron, RAF. The pilot's sister, Mona, had been in touch with his family long before the discovery of his body, and was told about it immediately.

THE BOOKSELLER magazine, which figured in an item in our Diary, page 22, November 13, has asked us to make it clear that the front page from which we quoted extensively, concluding with "1988 George Soros publishes the book no one dare ignore ..." was not part of the magazine's editorial coverage. It was entirely, along with the inside front cover, an advertisement from Mr Soros's publisher.

FARADISATION was a form of electro-therapy and not — as we said in a television review, page 19, G2, November 9 — "better known as electrocution". Just to be clear about it, electrocution is death by electric shock.

CWMAMAN, the hamlet where the members of the Stereophonics come from (pages 12 and 13, G2, November 11), is not in the Rhondda Valley. It is in the Cynon Valley. Even more people pointed it out this time than the last time we corrected it in June this year.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Appreciation

Donald MacLeary writes: I first saw Svetlana Beriosova *(obituary, November 12)* dance at Sadlers Wells Theatre when I was a student at the then Sadlers Wells Ballet School, in 1951. I can't remember the name of the ballet, but I was mesmerised by her wonderful presence and maturity. She was about 19 at the time. As a student I marvelled at her inventive interpretations, especially in Cranko's *The Shadow* and Ashton's *Ronaldo and Armida*. I was an extra in *Sleeping Beauty* when she made her debut as Aurora. Her beautiful line and dazzling smile were incredibly moving.

In 1959 I was chosen by Ninette de Valois to dance with her in *Swan Lake*: I was 21. For the next 14 years I had the honour to partner her and get to know this remarkable woman. She was very caring and was always there if I had problems. It was difficult to return her kindness as she was a very strong and independent person. She loved books, paintings, children and animals. She was a true friend until the end.

Birthdays

Prof Chinua Achebe, novelist, poet and educationalist, 68; Glenda Bailey, editor, Marie Claire, 40; Michael Billington, writer and critic, 59; Frank Bruno, boxer, 37; Willie Carson, former jockey and commentator, 56; Joanna Pettet, actress, 54; Griff Rhys Jones, comedian, writer, 45; Prof Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 63.

Death Notices

THEIL, George, aged 77, father of Robert George Theil. Contact Co-op Funeral Services, Swindon 01793 534759.

In Memoriam

FERGUSON, Eileen, 1929 - 1997. With love, Tony, Sally, Helen and Jack.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

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FinanceGuardian

Part-timers in mortgage trap

Lenders and benefit system fail homeowners, says Shelter

Phillip Inman

PEOPLE in part-time or self-employment are three times more likely than permanent employees to fall into mortgage arrears and lose their home, according to a report by Shelter.

The charity for homeless people said it had uncovered a strong link between homeowners who struggled to pay their mortgages and the shift to insecure jobs.

It said the problem was likely to worsen. Nine million workers are self-employed or take part-time jobs. By 2006, says the report, 11 million people will fit this category.

The charity said mortgage companies and the Government had failed homeowners who see their incomes rise and fall during the year and sometimes cannot meet monthly payments.

The charity said one in four homeowners — a total of 2.5 million people — are affected by job insecurity or unemployment at the moment.

Last month figures produced by the Government showed a 20 per cent rise in the number of homeowners threatened with eviction. Some 20,196 mortgage holders were taken to court in England and Wales between July and October, the highest figure since early 1996.

Chris Holmes, Shelter's director, said a slowdown in the economy could tip many families further into arrears and homelessness. He said mortgage companies needed to provide simple, cheap insurance policies that could be used to protect against short-term falls in income.

At the moment most policies are regarded as worthless because they do not take effect for several months, by which time a house has been repossessed, and are full of restrictive clauses, excluding many types of homeowner.

He said the Government should also shoulder some of the responsibility and offer a new benefit aimed at mortgage-holders on low incomes, providing them with a safety net while they are in work. There should also be an increase in the supply and quality of social housing and an independent regulator to oversee mortgage protection.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders, which represents the majority of the banks and building societies with mortgage products, said it agreed with many of the report's recommendations.

The council's director general, Michael Coogan, said lenders were in talks with the Government about the launch of a "baseline" mortgage insurance policy that would include people in less secure employment not covered by existing schemes. He emphasised that state benefits needed to be "dovetailed" with private insurance if the plan was to be successful.

Single parent runs risk of losing house if he takes insecure job



Wayne Davies (above) and family face dilemma

WAYNE Davies, a former carer for disabled children, is unable to go back to work without taking a risk that could jeopardise his mortgage payments and could lead to repossession of his house, *writes Phillip Inman*

Mr Davies is a single parent who has looked after his two young children since his wife left him 18 months ago.

He has no qualifications and believes he is unlikely to find a well-paid, full-time job near his home in Gosport, Hampshire.

Yet that is what he needs if he is to make up for the loss of benefits that add up, he said, to £810 per month and more, once childcare and travel costs are taken into account.

Instead it is likely he will be encouraged by his local benefits office to join the growing army of people who accept insecure jobs. But he said he cannot pursue just any kind of work.

His main concern is that few employers would allow him to take time off to look after his two children during holidays. He is also prevented from taking work while the Government insists that homeowners must wait nine months after they lose a job before their mortgage costs are paid by the state. And mortgage protection plans offered by leading lenders are little different — they are also often delayed by between three to six months before payments begin.

"I can't afford to take an insecure job because if it disappears I lose my house."

Mr Davies cannot afford to take out a mortgage protection plan anyway after building up arrears of £2,000 and following an eight-months battle with his lender, Abbey National, which landed him with a bill of £1,300 for its legal costs.

American Notebook

Mitch's impact is brought home



Martin Kettle

ALL day, every day, American television viewers are fed enormous amounts of frequently dramatic weather news. Because this is an insular continent, most of it is about the United States. Bad weather in Canada, never mind Cuba, rarely makes it to the screen.

Hurricane Mitch has been different. Its scale — more than 10,000 dead, as many as 3 million people homelese and without support — has triggered a response unmatched since the Armenian earthquake of 1988.

Much of the policy response to Mitch in Washington has focused on debt cancellation. A moratorium or cancellation of some debts is expected to be agreed within days.

The Clinton administration is said to be "putting the finishing touches" to a huge post-Mitch aid effort. But this is becoming an aid effort with a difference, and one that is not easily measured in the $90 million set aside for emergency action. The strategy is twofold. The first aim is to address the immediate human crisis.

But the second part of the plan speaks to something much more material and less high-minded than instant humanitarian concern. The US is terrified of the economic displacement effects of Mitch. Three million people with neither homes nor jobs are looking north.

So far, it has to be said, the evidence that hundreds of thousands of impoverished Hondurans and Nicaraguans are heading for California is thin on the ground. Mexican officials said last week that 400 Guatemalans had crossed illegally into Mexico — hardly mass migration.

But this misreads the nature of population movements between Latin America and the US. The devastation in the region is so great that it's still hard for people to move out of the stricken area. Once the aid kicks in, movement will start.

That is why the Clinton administration faces radical choices if it is to help rebuild Honduras and its neighbours in the ways that it wants. So far, the administration's Latin American policy has concentrated overwhelmingly on trade. But Mitch has destroyed not only trade but also the possibility of sustained economic activity of any kind in the short term.

One project already under way is to allow citizens of the four Latin American nations most directly affected who are already in the US to be allowed to stay until the crisis was deemed to be over.

But the really radical question is what to do with the residents of the economically stricken region. Ideally, they would be able to live, earn and become economically active in their native countries. But if that is not possible, then governments, and the US in particular, will have to intervene in the regional labour market more directly than before.

Pacific Rim tariff talks break down



The crisis is likely to impose a further toll on the south Wales economy this week when the semi-conductor silicon wafer foundry Wafer-Fab, owned by Hong Kong-based QPL International, announces job losses among the 1,000-strong workforce at its plant in Newport, Gwent PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Charlotte Denny

PACIFIC Rim countries yesterday failed to clinch a trade deal seen as crucial in convincing world markets that the region is still committed to opening its borders to foreign goods, despite experiencing the worst financial crisis for 50 years.

After four days of intense negotiations in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, officials from 16 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation organisation were unable to resolve Japanese objections to a deal which would have reduced tariffs covering $1,500 billion (£900 billion) of global trade.

The Japanese government, which is set to unveil another economic stimulus plan this morning, objects to cutting tariffs on wood and fish products. In a face-saving compromise, the Apec ministers agreed to send their proposals to the Geneva-based World Trade Organisation for consideration. US officials were attempting yesterday to put the best light on the failure to conclude the agreement.

"Two days ago, we felt there was a high probability that the whole initiative would collapse," US trade representative Charlene Barshefsky told reporters. "From our point of view, moving forward is the key."

The disagreement has put the US, the deal's biggest supporter, at loggerheads with Japan. Tariff cuts in wood and fish would require politically sensitive reforms at a time when the Japanese economy is already under strain.

Tokyo is set to authorise a $196 billion boost to spending today, along with tax cuts and other measures to revive flagging output. The record stimulus package, the second in six months, is expected to cheer the markets.

But the failure to conclude the Apec deal will hit financial confidence in the region. Other countries expressed disappointment that the meeting had failed to achieve the goal set in Vancouver last year of trade liberalisation in nine sectors, part of the ultimate goal of achieving a total free-trade zone by 2020.

● Three-quarters of British businesses remain committed to trading with Asia, despite the region's economic woes, according to a survey published today.

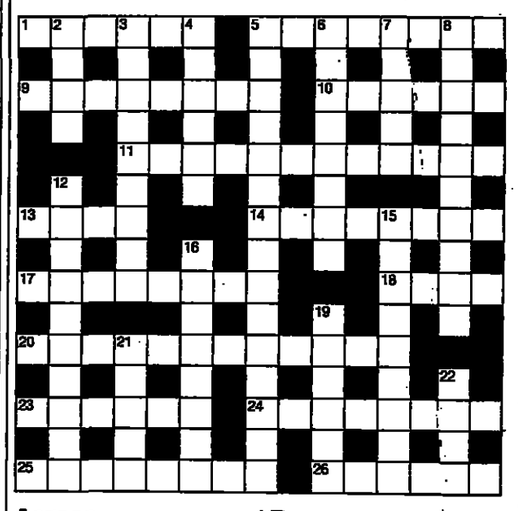
The Confederation of British Industry survey shows that only 6 per cent of companies plan to withdraw from the Asia-Pacific area.

"The economic and political instability in Asia-Pacific has caused short-term insecurity among UK investors," CBI president Sir Clive Thompson said.

"But companies with long-term experience in Asia continue to have confidence in operating there, with some companies actually seeing opportunities to benefit from economic turmoil."

Guardian Crossword No 21,433

Set by Rufus



Across

1 Something that may extinguish fire after crash in aircraft engine (6)
5 Torn between father and a love initially of mother, say (8)
9 Post one doesn't want — bodyguard on vessel (4,4)
10 One living in high mountains, alpine perhaps? (6)
11 Get up before ten (4,3,5)
13 The essential point for law-breakers, say (4)
14 They give a seat to one standing (8)
17 One blow after another makes great entertainment (5,3)
18 Herb's sure about foreign ways and is sorry (4)
20 Flat-finding agencies (6,6)
23 Who had ordered a seat on a Jumbo? (6)
24 Defeated by the democratic process? (8)
25 Exist on next to nothing, being humble (8)
26 Save cash (6)

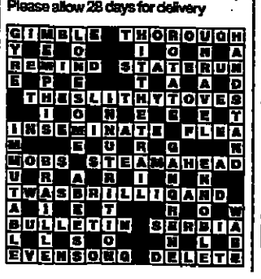
Down

2 A curious sort of plait (4)
3 They provide music for money (9)
4 It takes the strain out of brewing (3,3)
5 Don't try to fool me — don't push an alternative item (4,3,5,3)
6 Submitted and faced the wall (8)
7 No more old army slang from Poona? (5)
8 There's nothing wrong with a closed shop in the monastery (3,2,5)
12 For the record, Berlin invented it in 1887 (10)
15 A carry-over of marriage ritual (9)
16 Link accepted by spiteful female gossip (8)
19 Court card? (6)
21 They have a central meeting place (5)
22 Now this will get you nowhere (4)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,426

This week's winners of a Collins English Millennium Dictionary are Marjorie Rolfe of Watford, Hertfordshire, Simon Booth of Lancaster, Stephanie Farr of London, W4, David Crow of Wokingham, Berkshire, and F. Carnevali of Birmingham.

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CE ABFPRS

Government to unlock credit union shackles

Jill Treanor

THE Government today unveils plans making it easier to set up and join credit unions. The proposals form the backbone of the Government's aim to tackle "social exclusion" and help provide banking facilities for the 3.5 million people who do not have bank accounts.

The move coincides with a call from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for tax credits to be introduced as an incentive for banks and other financial institutions to get involved in such areas.

There are 600 credit unions dotted around the country.

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has already urged banks and building societies to follow their American equivalents by tailoring their products to the needs of people deprived of banking facilities.

She is endorsing the Joseph Rowntree Foundation report, which argues that "small is backable". Written by the New Economics Foundation think-tank, the report highlights five models which provide finance to half a million people:

☐ credit unions;
☐ community loan funds, which provide start-up capital for community regeneration;
☐ micro-finance funds, offering small loans to local entrepreneurs;
☐ mutual guarantee societies, formal associations of small and medium-size enterprises;
☐ social banks which are dedicated to social or environmental objectives.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.538	Germany 2.712	Malaysia 6.31	Singapore 2.66
Austria 18.02	Greece 454.64	Malta 0.611	South Africa 8.7
Belgium 55.58	Hong Kong 12.50	Netherlands 3.048	Spain 229.59
Canada 2.496	India 69.97	New Zealand 3.01	Sweden 13.12
Cyprus 0.801	Ireland 1.082	Norway 12.13	Switzerland 2.22
Denmark 10.38	Israel 7.00	Portugal 275.75	Turkey 470 940
Finland 8.331	Italy 2,697	Saudi Arabia 6.12	USA 1.615
France 9.069			

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Jobseeker Oates may pay price

Tom McGhie

MARKS and Spencer refused to comment last night on reports that Keith Oates, the company's deputy chairman and managing director, may be asked to resign this week.

Mr Oates is believed to have paid the price for lobbying non-executive directors to become the new chief executive, after Sir Richard Greenbury. M&S's chairman made it clear that he preferred Peter Salsbury, joint managing director, for the job.

Non-executive directors lead by Sir Martin Jacomb believe that, following the Oates campaign, the working relationship between the deputy chairman and Sir Richard has become untenable.

Mr Oates is M&S's best paid director, on a salary of £646,000. But, as he is not on a service contract, he would be forced to negotiate compensation for his 14 years service.

For the past week, the M&S board has been meeting behind closed doors to find a solution to the succession problem, but this is the first time that political manoeuvrings for the top job have been made public.

To add to the company's embarrassment, it recently announced its worst financial results for five years. Non-executives are dismayed that friends of Mr Oates have leaked his ambitions to the press, giving the public a rare insight into battles at the top level of the firm.

The board has decided that it will not be stampeded into a decision. To give themselves a breathing space, it is likely that an announcement will be made this week that a date will be set set for the appointment of a chief executive. Suggestions that Allan Leighton, Asda's chief executive, has been sounded out were dismissed as "nonsense" yesterday by his spokesperson.

Contrary to speculation, Sir Richard is also expected to remain chairman until he retires in 2001.

The departure of Mr Oates would leave room for the board to make an outside appointment for a non-executive deputy chairman. Whoever is appointed would have to be a powerful and respected figure in the retail industry, capable of standing up to Sir Richard.

Juice cafés will unleash lassis on health-conscious consumers

AFTER gourmet coffee shops and the new-look tea-bar, fruit juice is the latest drink to get a high-street makeover, *writes Charlotte Denny*.

A new company, Jus, plans to open a chain specialising in fresh fruit and vegetable juices as well as more exotic items.

The first five Jus cafés will appear over the next year. According to managing director Julian Dyer, Jus will deliver "a genuine alternative-destination eating experience".

As well as 20 types of juice, the chain will sell lassis — Indian-style yoghurt drinks — smoothies (ice-cream and fruit juice blends) and milkshakes made with juice.

Themed coffee chains have introduced drinks such as "a tall, wet, skinny latte with wings" — coffee with extra steamed milk, to take away. The tea-shop has been updated by Whittards, the specialist chain whose T-bar offers customers lemonade iced tea and mango sorbet.

Jus is targeting the health-conscious consumer and will provide information on vitamin and mineral levels in its drinks. "The western dietary supplement market grows at 15 per cent per annum, with families' attention to nutritional intake becoming increasingly important," the chain says.

The company is seeking private backers to raise £1.25 million, aiming to float early in 2000.

هكذا من الاصل

صكذا من الاصل

England on tenterhooks in Queensland



Past and present . . . England's former captain Mike Atherton, left, massages his back while undertaking 12th man duties and, right, his successor Alec Stewart begins the long walk to the pavilion after a golden duck PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM CHADWICK

Hick called up as cover for injured Atherton

Mike Selvey in Cairns

ONLY five days to go before the first Test begins and the top of the England batting order has been thrown into turmoil by Mike Atherton's back and Mark Butcher's inability to bat his eyelids.

Atherton, who was out first ball on Saturday here in the first innings against Queensland, spent all of yesterday resting after waking up with another recurrence of the condition that has plagued him throughout his career.

Although a similar problem caused Atherton to miss the Sri Lanka Test last summer, so ending a run of 62 matches, he does not think it will prevent him from playing in this Test. "I am more than confident that I will be fit," he said yesterday, "but I shall be seeing a specialist when we get to Brisbane." Strictly as cover, Graeme Hick will link up with the squad in the state capital on Wednesday.

Because of his time spent off the field, Atherton was prevented from opening the innings second time round, something that Butcher might be wishing had happened to him. Out for two in the first innings, yesterday he was palpably leg-before to his second ball, without scoring, and now heads for Brisbane, the Test and Glenn McGrath, with a grand total of nine runs from five knocks.

Although David Lloyd, the England coach, offered a vote of confidence to Butcher and insisted he will play despite his form and luck, the lack of another specialist opener other than Alec Stewart, means there really is no choice if England are to play all their batsmen. Indeed the wicketkeeper-captain was out first ball yesterday which gives him three ducks in four innings. Maybe Graham Gooch's occasional net practice is taking on a more serious aspect.

England are finding that this game, while offering excellent acclimatisation for Brisbane, has not been the best preparation for a Test on a good strip. Slow on the first two days, the surface in the middle of Cazaly's Oval footie pitch, had by yesterday cracked to such an extent that it would have interested any local potholing club.

In such circumstances pace bowlers who bowl straight and just back of a length can be lethal as the ball catches the edge of a crack and shoots through low. Leg-before is the favoured form of dismissal and of 17 wickets that fell yesterday, seven went in this manner. Curtly Ambrose would have been unplayable.

By the close the game remained poised with England — all out for 192 in their first innings, a deficit of 17 — on 74 for five in their second, in pursuit of 142 to win.

They had bowled Queensland out for 124 five overs into the last session. Although the pitch was not dangerous, there was not a batsman who could consider himself safe and four of the wickets — Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Stewart and John Crawley — were unfortunate, although the captain, a player who prefers the back foot and a pacy pitch, did not help his cause by failing to plunge steadfastly forward.

The bulk of the damage was done by Michael Kasprowicz, who came on first change and proceeded to take three wickets in five balls.

Deciding that aggression was the best policy, England had opened with Dominic Cork, and after Butcher's departure he and Hussain added 45 for the second wicket at four runs an over — heady stuff in the context of the match — before the vice-captain, not for the first time, was torpedoed. Stewart followed next ball, and Crawley shortly after that, bowled by another shooter.

Cork, though, had played with some panache, making 36, and adding a further 28 with Mark Ramprakash before he stretched right forward to Adam Dale but, to his great surprise, was adjudged leg-before all the same.

● Shane Warne sent down 10 overs for 46 runs and without taking the wicket of a Western Australian batsmen on his Sheffield Shield first-class comeback for Victoria in Perth yesterday.

QUEENSLAND
First Innings (overnight: 193-8)

M L Hayden retd hurt	0
D I Foley c Hussain b Gough	71
M S Kasprowicz not out	6
Extras (b2, lb3, w1, nb9)	15
Total (68.4 overs)	209

Fall of wickets: contd 208.
Bowling: Gough 17.4–4–41–3; Cork 14–1–34–1; Headley 15–7–33–1; Mullally 17–3–40–1; Croft 22–8–56–3; Ramprakash 1–1–0–0.

ENGLAND
First Innings

M A Butcher b Dale	2
M A Atherton c Healy b Dale	0
N Hussain c Love b Bichel	40
*†A J Stewart lbw b Dale	82
J P Crawley lbw b Dale	27
M R Ramprakash lbw b Jackson	16
D G Cork c Kasprowicz b Dale	33
R Croft lbw b Dale	0
D Gough not out	7
D W Headley b Dale	3
A D Mullally c Symonds b Bichel	0
Extras (b1, lb7, w1, nb13)	22
Total (98.2 overs)	192

Fall of wickets: 3, 4, 104, 111, 139, 160, 180, 185, 191.
Bowling: Kasprowicz 14–3–40–0; Dale 23–8–33–7; Foley 11–3–26–0; Bichel 17.2–4–43–2; Jackson 29–13–33–1; Maher 1–0–2–0; Symonds 3–0–7–0.

QUEENSLAND
Second Innings

J P Maher c Hussain b Headley	56
M L Love lbw b Gough	0
S G Law b Gough	7
A Symonds c Crawley b Croft	20
G I Foley lbw b Croft	1
*†I A Healy c Stewart b Mullally	5
A J Bichel b Cork	5
M S Kasprowicz b Gough	16
P W Jackson lbw b Cork	0
A C Dale not out	7
M L Hayden absent	0
Extras (lb4)	4
Total (54.2 over)	124

Fall of wickets: 1, 9, 58, 82, 85, 99, 103, 103, 124.
Bowlings: Gough 11.2–3–29–3; Cork 9–4–13–2; Mullally 13–5–21–1; Headley 11–1–30–1; Croft 10–2–27–2.

ENGLAND
Second Innings

M A Butcher lbw b Bichel	0
D G Cork lbw b Dale	36
N Hussain lbw b Kasprowicz	24
*†A J Stewart lbw b Kasprowicz	0
J P Crawley b Kasprowicz	4
M R Ramprakash not out	4
D W Headley not out	0
Extras (lb6)	6
Total (for 5, 25 overs)	74

Fall of wickets: 0, 43, 43, 51, 74.
To bat: M A Atherton, R D B Croft, D Gough, A D Mullally.
Bowlings: Bichel 6–0–25–1; Dale 5–2–10–1; Kasprowicz 7–1–14–3; Jackson 7–1–19–0.
Umpires: A J McQuillan and S J Tausel.

Rugby Union

International: Wales 20 South Africa 28

Welsh dragon breathes fire

Ian Malin at Wembley sees the world champions forced to dig deep for victory



Crossing point . . . Gareth Thomas of Wales goes over for the game's first try PHOTOGRAPH: COLIN ELSEY

SCOTT GIBBS was the first player down the tunnel at the end of this breathtaking match. He never looked back as Nick Mallett, the Springboks' coach, put a consoling arm around Gibbs's inconsolable team-mates while the chants "Wales, Wales" reverberated around Wembley Stadium.

Gibbs could not wait for the desolate silence of the dressing-room. Because his team had believed that not only could they stand toe-to-toe with the world champions, they could have beaten them. But on a day when England's heavyweights had knocked the middleweight Dutch around the ring, heroic Wales had been floored in the final round.

Wales, a nation whose glorious history has been mocked by a wretched recent past, are also refusing to look back. Graham Henry, the coach from New Zealand for whom this was a baptism of fire, said of the 96–13 defeat in Pretoria last June: "We did not even think of that day. We are not dwelling on the past, just adapting to the present."

Most critics had dreaded another thumping for Wales. Instead the heavy tanks of South Africa, who had arrived in Britain intent on rolling over the four nations on successive Saturdays, needed to be extra flame-resistant. They were met by a Dragon breathing fire again.

Even the Welsh Rugby Union president, Sir Tasker Watkins, talked in doom-laden terms in the match programme of "staring into an abyss" when he had witnessed the biggest defeat in history of a major rugby nation five months ago. But only three players survived from that under-strength side and Gibbs, the captain Robert Howley, Scott Quinnell and Neil Jenkins have been victorious with the Lions in South Africa. The backbone of this Wales team are proud men and as Howley said: "We were not prepared to be the whipping boys any longer."

And so as the game approached the end of 80 minutes, the teams were locked at 20-20 and Wales seemed at least assured of a "winning draw" to match England's 26-26 result at Twickenham last December which had deprived the All Blacks of a 100 per cent record for 1997. The Springboks then found the extra reserves that distinguish good sides from great ones.

From a line-out close to the Welsh 22, Joost van der Westhuizen attacked after the ensuing maul. The scrum-half's pass was knocked into the air by Johan Erasmus and Andre Venter, Erasmus's back-row colleague, plunged over. South Africa were off the ropes and six minutes into stoppage time, Franco Smith's third penalty ensured a 15th successive Test win.

The extra minutes had been added on by the Australian referee Stuart Dickinson because of injuries and a streaker, who dodged security men for what seemed like an age 15 minutes from time with Wales attacking and 20–17 ahead.

Welsh concentration was disturbed and the South Africans came storming back. Wave after wave of attacks crashed against the red defensive wall. Images of Stanley Baker and Rorke's Drift kept hoving into view, until Wales were at last penalised for offside and Smith kicked an equalising penalty.

Wales's fate was settled, though, in a calamitous two-minute period late in the first half. After 33 minutes the Springboks were, astonishingly, 14–0 adrift. Gareth Thomas's well-taken try after eight minutes and especially the three penalties of Jenkins brought back memories of those Lions' Test victories.

But when Howley attempted to run a penalty from close to his line, Wales lost the ball, conceded a scrum and then when their front row stood up, conceded a harsh penalty try. From the restart Pieter Rossouw counter-attacked, for once the tackle of Jenkins was mistimed and Van der Westhuizen was handed a gift try.

He broke Welsh hearts, but Henry's plan to pick a side which could match the Springboks physically — no room nowadays for the mercurial but frail talents of Arwel Thomas — and play bold, ball-in-hand rugby, had shaken the Springboks. Scotland could feel the backlash this Saturday.

As Mallett said: "We get judged on the quality of our win rather than our winning. No Springbok side since the Sixties has had this burden of expectation. We're not looking for excuses but it was difficult to prepare against a side we had not seen before. This was a different Wales, playing a different game."

Shane Howarth, the former All Black who had performed so brilliantly on his Wales debut at full-back, offered the thought: "All the good work will come to nothing if we fail to beat Argentina next weekend." And he added: "How was my Welsh accent?" Sounded perfect, Shane, bach.

● Jason White's 16-week suspension for stamping in Glasgow's defeat by South Africa last Tuesday has been confirmed by the Rugby Football Union, which was asked to adjudicate as an independent body after White had appealed against the verdict.

SCORERS: Wales: Try: Thomas. Penalties: Jenkins 5. **South Africa:** Tries: Penalty try, Van der Westhuizen, Venter. Conversions: Smith 2. Penalties: Smith 3.

WALES: Howarth (Sale); Thomas (Cardiff), Taylor, Gibbs (both Swansea), Jones; N Jenkins (both Pontypridd), Howley (Cardiff, capt); Lewis (Cardiff), Morris (Swansea, 40min), Humphreys (Cardiff), Anthony (Swansea), Evans, Swansea, 65), C Quinnell (Richmond), Wyatt (Llanelli), Charvis (Swansea), Williams (Pontypridd), S Quinnell (Llanelli).

SOUTH AFRICA: Montgomery (Western Province); Terblanche (Boland), Snyman, Smith (both Blue Bulls), Rossouw (Western Province); Mentoor (Natal), Van der Westhuizen (Blue Bulls); Kruger (Natal), Bekker (Golden Lions), Garvey (Natal; Le Roux, Natal, 40min), Otto (Blue Bulls), Andrews (Natal), Strauss, Western Province, 46), Erasmus, Venter (both Free State), Tshabalala (Natal, capt).

Referee: S Dickinson (Australia).

Henry fumes at streak of bad luck

Paul Rees on the mad moment which robbed brave Wales of a shock victory and the chance to establish a nude world order

IT WAS a novel excuse: Wales, on a losing streak, were denied by a streaker who burst on to the Wembley turf with 10 minutes remaining and showed such a turn of pace and nimbleness on his feet that it took eight stewards to eventually bring him to ground after he had given them the runaround.

The Wales coach Graham Henry will not be checking on his nationality to see if he is eligible for the Wales squad. "The guy cannot be Welsh," snapped Henry. "He is an idiot who should be shot. He clearly knew nothing about rugby."

It took nearly five minutes to remove the long-haired, bearded streaker. Wales, who were leading 20–17 at the time, had been on the attack but South Africa used the break in play to steel themselves for one last effort and they scored 11 unanswered points.

"The streaker broke our concentration," said Henry. "South Africa had not been in it until then, apart from a couple of minutes in the first half. The fool with no clothes on has a lot to answer for."

Wales at least showed that they looked like a team with the bare essentials to compete, while South Africa, the reigning world champions, looked like the emperor who had lost his clothes, barely recognisable from the side who had beaten New Zealand and Australia during the summer.

Wales had never beaten South Africa in 11 Test matches but the Springboks did not take the lead on Saturday until stoppage time against a country they had thrashed 96–13 in Pretoria five months before.

Henry was then the coach of Auckland Blues and New Zealand A before being tempted to Wales by an annual salary of £250,000 and the chance to coach an international side. His friends told him he was mad and he was on Saturday evening.

"I am not giving my players a pat on the back because they lost," he said. "It pains me as a New Zealander that South Africa are the best team in the world, but we were better than them until the last 10 minutes. I was delighted with the way the players expressed themselves but we did not have the maturity of the Springboks."

Henry is now revered in Wales as a Messiah who is sorting out the mess that was started by New Zealand when they thrashed Wales 23–3 at Cardiff in 1980 which they followed up by recording scores of 49, 52 and 54 later that decade.

"I think sales of the Wales jersey should now pick up," said the Wales captain Robert Howley. "We sent out a message to the rugby world. Everyone expected us to lose by at least 40 points, but the mood in our dressing-room afterwards was one of intense disappointment because we should have won."

Wales might have succeeded but for a penalty try awarded to South Africa six minutes from the end of the first half when they were trailing 14–0: since the two countries started playing each other in 1906, Wales had never led the Springboks by more than five points.

The Australian referee Stuart Dickinson did not tell Howley why he had made the decision and Henry did not want to make an issue of it. "I have no idea what it was for," said the Wales hooker Jonathan Humphreys, who was deemed the culprit for lifting his head as South Africa drove a five-yard scrum.

New Zealand may have played the biggest part in Wales's downfall but two New Zealanders were the toast of the Principality on Saturday: Henry and the full-back Shane Howarth whose dancing feet mesmerised the strongest defence in the world and allowed Wales to take the game to South Africa.

Henry is aware of the danger of hubris. "We face Argentina at Llanelli on Saturday and we have to win. We will be expected to beat them and that creates a different pressure."

Stradey Park will be a sell-out, but suspect barriers have cut capacity by 3,000 to 10,500. At least the Welsh defence is no longer suspect, but streakers will not be welcome at Llanelli. No more false dawns for Wales: this is a nude dawn.

Scotland 8 New Zealand Maoris 24

Bravehearts unable to save face

Robert Kitson at Murrayfield

NOT for the first time those putting on a brave face in Edinburgh far outnumbered the bravehearts. If this was an improvement on Scotland's gruesome recent performances, it was a depressing sign of the times that neither side pretended the result was a shock.

Scotland have now lost 10 of 11 Tests played in the past 12 months; a record not aided by defeats in Italy and Fiji. It will take more than a collective nip from Jim Telfer's hipflask to restore national spirits against South Africa this Saturday, with memories of the Springboks' 68–10 win on the same ground last November still fresh.

Changes are likely with Gregor Townsend's role coming under scrutiny as Telfer seeks to address the lack of incisiveness in attack.

Tom Smith and Budge Pountney gave the pack a more solid look but the Boks' wake-up call at Wembley left Telfer under few illusions. "Good teams get better after frights like that," he said.

The Maoris coach Matt Te Pou was not alone in believing that, on a drier day, his backs would have given their opposite numbers significantly more problems. Instead all the points, bar the flanker Glen Marsh's try on the hour, came from the respective full-backs. Auckland's Adrian Cashmore kicked his goals smoothly and left Rowen Shepherd floundering for his own try 10 minutes from time, while Derrick Lee belied his failure to make London Scottish's first team with his first try at Murrayfield.

"Since I'm supposedly not good enough to play for my club, maybe it's surprising when I play well for Scotland," he commented. So what did he think of Scotland's chances against South Africa? "There has to be a lot of improvement, which we discussed after the game. They are the best in the world."

At least a dank Saturday afternoon did yield two abiding memories; the You've-Been-Tangoed jerseys of the home team and the pair of mesmeric hakas performed by the visitors. Rumours that Scotland, with their increasing number of "kilted Kiwis", would also do one proved unfounded.

SCORERS: Scotland: Try: Lee. Penalties: Lee. **New Zealand Maoris:** Tries: Marsh, Cashmore. Conversions: Cashmore. Penalties: Cashmore 4.

SCOTLAND: Lee (London Scottish); Stanger, Mayer (both Edinburgh Reivers); Shepherd (Glasgow Caledonians); Tait (Edinburgh Reivers, 75min), C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers); Townsend (Brive) (Hodge (Edinburgh Reivers, 61), Redpath (Edinburgh Reivers, capt); Smith, Bulloch (both Glasgow Caledonians), Burnell (London Scottish; Hilton, Bath, 67), S Murray (Bedford), Grimes (Weir, Newcastle, 67), Wallwright (Glasgow Caledonians), M Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers, 61), Pountney (Northampton), Peters (Bath).

NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: Cashmore; Rollman, Ralph, Gibson (L McDonald, 75; Osborne, 80), Berryman; Brown, Duggan; Lidgard (Feek, 58), Macfarland (Aikenhead, 58), Mcewen, Coe (Cribb, 74), Maxwell (Waikirl, 80), Flavell, Marsh, Blair (capt).

Referee: S Lander (England).

PARTING SHOT



Piste artist . . . snowboarders from France, Spain, Finland, the United States and Britain duelled for prizes totalling £5,000 in the Board-X festival at Battersea Park, the highlight being the "London Big Air", a 60-metre jump demanding tricks and stunts in addition to height

Photograph by Tom Jenkins

Real men don't need blondes

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

I READ in the weekend papers that jars of Chicken Tonight's new range of Sizzle and Stir sauces are being recalled because of a production defect. I hope the same fate does not befall the new public face of Chicken Tonight, Ian Wright, whose chat show, Friday Night's All Wright, has more short-comings in production than a jar of Thai Sweet Chilli could ever contain.

The set seems too cramped for a start, barely big enough to contain Wright's baggy black leather trousers. Then there's the crowd, bearing down on our hero from three sides, yabooing like a bunch of lads on a Saturday night who have just spotted a fight outside the chip shop. Some nonsense with a door-person played by a blonde model called Caprice didn't really work, and the heart didn't exactly leap at the sight of the first guest, Ulrika Jonsson. It *is* just conceivable that Ms Jonsson may once have had something interesting to impart to a Friday night television audience, but since she's had more exposure of late than Scott of the Antarctic, those days are long gone.

If the idea of the cosy set was to encourage some sexual chemistry between Wrightie and Ulrika it worked, since the "interview" consisted primarily of the pair exchanging bodily innuendoes while she played with her hair and he with his leather trousers.

Admittedly, the title sequence — shots of Wright taking a shower to the music from Shaft — had tipped me off that we weren't exactly in for The Ascent of Man, but it might have helped Wrightie along a little if the first guest of a brand new series had not been round the block quite as often as Ms Jonsson.

When Wrightie's old Arsenal mucker Tony Adams appeared, however, the jocosity began to work, and the show took off. Adams's story is familiar enough but it never fails to move. And seeing him not quizzed by a skilled interviewer (definitely not) but joshing with someone with whom he shared a dressing-room somehow added a new dimension.

The affection between the two footballers was palpable. At one point, Adams laughed nervously and said: "We've talked like this hundreds of times, Wrightie, and 'ere we are doin' it in front of all these people." He seemed on the verge of tears. Coming across genuine emotion on a chat show is surprising enough at the best of times. In the Friday night post-pub zone it is pretty well unheard of.

> Adams seemed on the verge of tears. Genuine emotion on a chat show in the Friday night post-pub zone is pretty well unheard of

Here was a real illustration of what makes a football team work. Wright's chipper demeanour clearly played no small part in making the Arsenal dressing-room a suitable recovery zone for Adams, and you could see why Harry Redknapp was so keen to take the striker across London. The producers are probably hoping we the viewers will warm to Wrightie in the same way, which I think we might. But a few more footy guests would help. If Wright could get his West Ham colleagues John Hartson and Eyal Berkovic on the same show, I'd tune in.

It was illuminating to compare the likeable Adams with another fallen idol and England captain, Will Carling, a guest on John Inverdale's On Side. It is tempting to say that a sport gets the heroes it deserves and that Carling is a product of professional rugby union's headlong rush into venality, but the story is more complex than that.

Adams is demonstrably a character who has taken a long hard look at himself, while Carling is, to use the fashionable terminology, still in denial. Time and again, Inverdale gave Carling the chance to express some regret for his behaviour, but the player only regretted "the perception that parts of the media put out there". Carling kept banging on about "the perception", while his body language, his shifty expression, and every weasel word were helping to deepen that perception. It will be some time, I suspect, before Carling is offered a Chicken Tonight ad.

Michael Owen, meanwhile, is the new face of Walkers Crisps. He has replaced Gary Lineker, providing the first of the new series of They Think It's All Over with one of its better running gags; the only one in fact suitable for discussion in a respectable newspaper, the others revolving mostly around the size of Patrick Vieira's penis, and the sexual proclivities of David Beckham and Ms Posh Spice.

I stick to my view that this programme should have been condemned as unfit for human consumption about four series ago. It now follows a sitcom on BBC1 called Dinnerladies which served up a joke about the bread-man's "crusty bloomers". Perhaps the shows could be incinerated together. Then, maybe, we could lay to rest the absurd nonsense that we produce better TV comedy than the nation that gave us Seinfeld, Frasier, and The Simpsons.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP
European Qualifying Zone
Pool 1
Ireland 70 Georgia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	1	1	0	0	70	0	3
Georgia	1	0	0	1	0	70	1
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pool 2
England 110 Holland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	110	0	3
Holland	1	0	0	1	0	110	1
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES
France 34 Argentina 14
Wales 20 South Africa 28

TOUR MATCHES
Scotland 8 N Zealand Maoris 24
Australia 24 France A 9

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP
Third round

Blackheath	13	Sedgley Park	6
Bracknell	13	Met Police	8
Coventry	26	Worcester	36
Esher	42	Harrogate	17
Exeter	61	Whitchurch	11
Hull Ionians	7	Newbury	31
Lydney	44	Stourbridge	5
Morley	39	Maidenhead	25
Nottingham	27	Wharfedale	17
Reading	12	Orrell	23
Rosslyn Park	12	Henley	15
Rotherham	8	London Welsh	6
Swanage & W ham	6	Barking	36
Wakefield	8	Kendal	16
Waterloo	34	New Brighton	23
Bristol	55	Sandal	0
Moseley	22	Fylde	15
Rugby	7	Leeds	68

ALLIED DUNBAR
Premiership One

Ldn Scottish	17	Ldn Irish	23
Bedford	20	Saracens	25
Newcastle	45	Northampton	35
Wasps	45	Leicester	17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	11	8	0	3	343	200	16
Saracens	10	7	0	3	324	219	14
Bath	10	7	0	3	291	187	14
Northampton	10	7	0	3	251	208	14
Wasps	11	6	0	5	341	241	12
Newcastle	10	6	0	4	268	236	12
Gloucester	10	6	0	4	234	211	12
Richmond	10	6	0	4	272	266	12
Harlequins	10	6	0	4	262	259	12
Ldn Irish	10	4	0	6	244	258	8
Sale	10	4	0	6	247	308	8
Bedford	11	2	0	9	265	369	4
Ldn Scottish	9	2	0	7	152	258	4
W Hartlepool	10	0	0	10	153	430	0

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE
Two North
Walsall 10 Nuneaton 20
South
Cheltenham 23 Bridgwater 16

ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLY
Cardiff 17 Gloucester 9

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE
First Division
Blackwood 34 Newbridge 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunvant	10	9	0	2	321	172	31
Pontypool	11	8	0	2	254	183	29
Bonymaen	11	7	1	3	235	180	27
Cross Keys	10	7	0	3	245	157	24
Treorchy	10	6	0	4	235	142	23
Rumney	10	6	0	4	217	185	23
Merthyr	11	6	1	4	213	201	22
Newbridge	11	6	0	5	274	217	21
Llandovery	11	6	1	4	264	241	20
Abertillery	12	5	1	6	214	161	20
Blackwood	10	3	1	6	220	217	16
Tredegar	12	2	1	8	254	306	13
S Wales Police	10	3	1	6	168	263	10
UWIC	11	2	1	8	273	314	10
Tonda	10	2	0	8	160	267	7
Maesteg	10	1	0	9	103	394	3

TENNENTS VELVET CUP
Third round
Alloa 17 Strathmore 7, Ayr 109 Carrick 5; Biggar 47 Annan 16; Boroughmuir 117 Howe of Fife 8; Cumnock 70 Stewarts Mel FP 14; Dalziel 12 Kirkcaldy 46; Dunfermline 9 Langholm 17; East Kilbride 20 Selkirk 18; Gala 70 Gordonians 19; Glasgow Southern 17 Glasgow Hawks 71; Greenock Wndrs 10 Melrose 99; Haddington 19 Ross High 17; Hawick 40 Berwick 12; Hawks Linden 7 Edinburgh Acads 17; Heriot's FP 73 Glenrothes 11; Hillhead Jordanhill 13 St Boswells 5; Hutchesons' Aloysian 12 Allan Glen's 0; Irvine 8 Stewartry 21; Jed-Forest 25 Preston Lodge 27; Kelso 73 Lenzie 5; Kilmarnock 103 Hyndland FP 0; Linlithgow 15 Stirling County 6; Morgan Acad FP 10 Ellon 8; Murrayfield 43 Carnoustie 12; Peebles 50 Livingston 5; Perthshire 47 Royal Dick VC 3; Portobello FP 0 Currie 64; Strathaven 12 Watsonians 64; Trinity Acads 7 Dundee HSFP 67; Waysiders Drumpellier 6 Aberdeen GSFP 31; West of Scotland 53 Cambuslang 10

TETLEY BITTER VASE
Third round
South West: Avon 11 Wessex 3; Bridport 8 Chipping Sodbury 20; Calne 39 O Elizabethans 5; Chesham 3 Swindon College 35; Minehead 18 Newquay Hornets 5; Minety 2 Pennanians 3; O Public Oaks 19 Bristol Barbarians 3; Phoenix 8 Cheltenham Saracens 13; Tavistock 36 Tamar Saracens 17; Tetbury 122 Dowty 5; Wallingford 3 Hucclecote O B 13; Wheatley 29 Portcastrians 6; Totnes 18 Topsham 22; Gloucester All Blues 6 St Just 16. **Postponed:** Exeter Saracens v Prince Rock. **London/South East:** Bank Of England 20 Barclays Bank 13; Chichester IHE 13 Betteshanger C W 12; Civil Service 10 Billericay 32; Clacton 10 U C S O B 38; Cuffley 0 Millwall Albion 9; Feltham 57 Ipswich Y M C A 5; Lightwater 3 Lordswood 43; London Exiles beat London French (walk-over); Nomads 5 O Ruislipians 20; O Actonians 13 Hitchin 25; O Elthamians 19 Teddington 0; Tonbridge beat Old Johnians (walk-over); O Palmerians 8 O Hamptonians 53; O Streetonians 3 Datchworth 55; O Tiffinians 17 Dover 13; O Wellingtonians 41 Newick 13; Pulborough 44 Reigate & Redhill 12; Stanford Le Hope 26 St Nicholas O B 20; Thames 7 O Brentwoods 38. **Midlands:** Atherstone 17 O Saltleians 15; Belper 6 Wellingborough O G 21; Bishops Castle 10 Stihillians 38; Congleton 12 Harborne 7; Coventry Welsh 10 Oswestry 20; Dronfield 10 Nottinghamians 10; Hope Valley 48 Univ Of Derby 5; Kidderminster Carolians 11 Upton On Severn 11, Meden Vale 0 O Newtonians 43; Northampton Casuals 5 Daventry 7; Shipston-On-Stour 10 Droitwich 20; Sleaford 20 Rushden & Higham 45, Vauxhall 12 Bedford Swifts 62; Wednesbury 13 Uttoxeter 18; Wigston 62 Cleethorpes 0. **North:** Baildon 7 Leeds Corinth 20; Bury 7 Moore 8; Chester Le St 7 Scarborough 30; Dinnington 11 Hullensians 10; Gosforth 5 Bishop Auckland 5; Heath 34 Skipton 10; Heaton Moor 17 U Eden 12; Hemsworth 29 Seghill 5; Marist 6 Knottingley 17; O Bedians 37 Hoylake 7; Oldham 49 Marple 14; Pt Sunlight 24 Moresby 16; Shell Stanlow 19 Sefton 7; Wibsey 0 Sheffield Tigers 37.

CLUB MATCHES

Aldridge	15	Yardley & Dist	17
Bingham	17	Birstall	28
Boston	7	Thorney	15
Bourneville	26	O Griffinians	39
C Mortimer	38	Ludlow	12
Corby	38	Oundle	5
Coventry Saracens	0	Milton Keynes	35
Dixonians	15	Shrewsburyws	51
East Retford	10	Worksop	17
Edwardian	0	Stratford-U-Avon	62
Kettering	0	Kenilworth	29
Loughborough	17	Oadby W	27
Manor Park	48	Pinley	0
Market Rasen	10	Grimsby	25
Nottm Casuals	17	Keyworth	8
Nuneaton OE	19	O Leamingtonians	14
Rolls Royce	15	Boots Ath	6
Rugby St Andrews	11	Dunlop	7
Stewart & Lloyds	5	Nottingham Mods	14
Stoneygate	27	Westleigh	22
Telford	12	Warley	10
Kibworth	15	Spalding	5
Dartfordians	61	O Beccehamians	5
Gravesend	41	Rochford	10
Hemel Hempstead	59	Tring	13
Millbrook	5	Winchester XV	27
Ruislip	17	Hampstead	0
Thurrock	58	Brentwood	8
Billingham	16	Houghton	9
Bolton	40	Thornton Cleveleys	0
Crewe & Nantwich	5	Bowdon	7
Guisborough	22	Wetherby	11
Halifax Vandals	7	Ilkley	15
Kirkby Lonsdale	43	Fleetwood	6
Leigh	11	Oldershaw	7
Leodiensians	102	Littleborough	7
O Othensians	44	Bradford Salem	22
Pocklington	46	York RI	13
Ripon	31	Redcar	5
Sandbach	12	Leek	58
Wilmslow	62	O Salians	15
Wirral	14	Altrincham Kersal	46
Linley	45	Congleton	7
Matlock	13	Ashfield	12
O Coventrians	19	Barkers Butts	25
O Halesonians	3	Selly Oak	43
Chesterfield	23	Thornensians	24
Doncaster	18	Scunthorpe	24
Northallerton	35	Durham City	0
O Modernians	10	Rotherham XV	0
Sunderland	15	Ashington	22
Yarnbury	31	Leeds XV	7
Basildon	17	Romford & G Pk	0
Cambridge XV	29	Newmarket	0
Charlton Pk	17	Haywards Heath	20
Charlton Pk XV	7	Blackheath XV	32
Enfield Ignatians	25	Hackney	9
Eton Manor	24	Southend	24
Holt	0	Norwich Union	14
Maldon	5	Wanstead	7
Marlow	65	OMT	37
O Albanians	75	Cheshunt	5
O Dunstonians	21	KCS OB	10
O Mid-Whitgiftians	21	London Tribes	7
O Wimbledonians	19	Effingham	33
Thanet Wndrs	38	Guildford	25
Woodbridge	13	W Norfolk	20
Wimbledon	32	Camberley	24
Worthing	20	Portsmouth	19
Wymondham	0	Diss	36
Ventnor	24	Gosport & Fareham	0

ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP
Midlands Division Two: Stafford 13 Luctonians 15. **Midlands West Division One:** Willenhall 15 Malvern 15; Selly Oak 43 O Halesonians 3. **Midlands West Division Two:** G P T Coventry 32 Erdington 0. **South West Division One:** Keynsham 10 Launceston 67. **South West Two West:** Tiverton 44 Clevedon 20. **London Division Two South:** Old Blues 40 O Juddian 5. **London Division Three S/W:** Esso (Fawley) 43 O Reigatian 30. **London Division Three N/E:** West Norfolk 20 Woodbridge 13. **Thwaites Northern Division: Division One:** Stockton 23 Macclesfield 18. **North West Division Two:** Fleetwood 20 Northwich 13.

NPI CUP
Third round
London/South East: Barnes 8 Dorking 15, Basingstoke 64 Chichester 3; Bishop s Stortford 42 Uxbridge 13; Bury St Edmunds 18 Harpenden 25, Chingford 10 O Verulamians 28; Cranbrook 17 Alton 10. Diss 17 Lowestoft & Yarmouth 24; E Grinstead 15 Sidcup 10; Folkestone 16 Warlingham 3; Maidstone beat Heathfield and Waldron (walk-over); London Nigerians 21 O Merchant Taylors 11; O Guildfordians 25 Thanet Wanderers 33; O Mid-Whitgiftians 12 Sevenoaks 30; O Millhillians 7 Kingsburians 9; Sutton & Epsom 55 Canterbury 0; Univ Vandals 11 Gosport & Fareham 30; U Clapton 11 Fullerians 13; Woodford 20 Hertford 12. **Postponed:** London New Zealand v Chelmsford; Medway v Andover. **South West:** Barnstaple 48 Wellington 8; Brixham 12 Truro 5; Chew Valley 20 Bristol Harlequins 29; Cinderford 34 Paignton 0. Coney Hill 25 Windsor 0; Combe Down 18 Ivybridge 8; Dorchester 20 Gloucester O B 41; Kingsbridge 7 Camborne 28, Longlevens 19 Bournemouth 9; O Centralians 10 O Patesians 12; Oxford 7 Stow On The Wold 23; Tadley 10 Aylesbury 21; Thornbury 12 Dings Crusaders 86; Wimborne 50 Swindon 0; Yatton 44 O Sulians 0. **Midlands:** Bedworth 5 O Yardleians 6; Camp Hill 10 O Laurentians 15; Dudley Kingswinford 42 Kereslev 0, Dunstablians 13 Luton 8; Hereford 15 Burton 5, Leamington 41 Aston O E 3; Leicester Forest 31 O Northamptonians 36; Mkt Bosworth 57 Stamford 0; Melbourne 3 Derby 6; Mellish 14 Ampthill & District 60; Newport (Salop) 10 Newbold On Avon 14; Oakham 81 W Bridgford 10; S Leicester 33 Syston 5; Stockwood Pk 10 Ilkeston 21. **North:** Aldwinians 18 Wigan 10; Blackburn 35 Chester 8; Bid & Bingley 16 Northern 51; Darlington 41 Acklam 3; Halifax 15 West Leeds 3; Huddersfield 27 Middlesbrough 16; O Brodleians 5 West Park Bramhope 10; Penrith 17 Lymm 13; Rochdale 13 Vale Of Lune 19; St Edwards OB 5 West Pk (St Helens) 9; Stoke On Trent 18 Blackpool 13; Westoe 7 Driffield 14; Widnes beat St Benedicts (walkover); Keighley 36 N Shields 3; Vickers 15 Percy Park 17.

RUGBY LEAGUE

THIRD TEST
Great Britain (10) 23
T: Long, Robinson, Smith.
G: Farrell 5
DG: Smith
New Zealand (2) 23
T: R Paul 2, H Paul
G: Halligan 5
DG: Jones
Att: 13,278

SUPER LEAGUE: March 5: Wigan v Hull. **March 7:** Bradford v Sheffield; Castleford v Wakefield; Halifax v Warrington; London v Huddersfield; Salford v St Helens; Gateshead v Leeds.

GOLF

TAIHEIYO MASTERS TOURNAMENT (Gotemba, Japan): **Final scores** (Japanese unless stated):

275
L Westwood (GB) 72 67 67 69
277
M Ozaki 69 72 69 67
278
E Herrera (Col) 65 74 69 71
279
F Minoza (Phil) 68 70 67 74
280
H Fujita 73 70 68 68
T Ozaki 68 70 71 71
281
R Goosen (SA) 70 74 67 70
H Meshiai 71 71 65 74
282
R Kawagishi 67 72 73 70
S Higaki 71 70 71 70
S Glen (Aus) 74 71 66 71
T Taniguchi 72 69 66 75
283
N Ozaki 72 73 70 68
E Mizoguchi 71 71 73 68
A Coltart (GB) 69 72 72 70
284
D Howell (GB) 70 73 73 68
J M Olazabal (Sp) 72 73 70 69
T Teshima 74 71 68 71
K Kawabara 71 70 71 72
D Clarke (GB) 71 71 70 72
N Serizawa 67 68 75 74.

SHARK SHOOTOUT (Thousand Oaks, Calif): **Second-round scores** (US unless stated):

130
D Love/B Faxon 68 62
131
T Kite/B Mayfair 69 62
G Norman/S Elkington (Aus) 67 64
B Andrade/J Haas 68 63
J Daly/F Zoeller 65 66
C Rocca (It)/S Hoch 66 65
134
B Lietzke/S McCarron 72 62
F Couples/J Leonard 69 65
P Jacobsen/J Cook 68 66
136
B Crenshaw/C Stadler 70 66
H Sutton/G Day 68 68
138
M Calcavecchia/A Magee 71 68

THAILAND OPEN (Bangkok): **Leading third round scores:**

202
J Kingston (SA) 69 64 69
203
B Ruangkit (Tha) 68 67 68
204
J Randhawa (Ind) 65 66 73
205
S Yates (Scot) 69 66 70
206
T Jaidee (Tha) 67 70 69
J M Singh (Ind) 69 67 70
207
R Brobio (Phi) 69 69 69
C Kamps (SA) 67 71 69
208
A Singh (Ind) 71 68 69
K Walker (Scot) 69 67 72

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S OPEN (Melbourne, Aus): **Leading third round scores** (Aus unless stated):

213
M McGuire (NZ) 72 72 69
214
K Robbins (US) 75 74 65
216
L Neumann (Swe) 73 74 69
218
J Stephenson 74 72 72
K Webb 78 70 70
L Brooky (NZ) 75 73 70
219
C Dibnah 74 72 73
M Lunn 76 73 70
220
J Crafter 79 71 70
A Munt 78 72 70
Selected others
224
SY Kang (Kor) 78 79 67
L Philo (US) 75 74 75
225
C Duffy (GB) 79 71 75
226
Y Kim (Kor) 84 74 68
227
J H Suh (Kor) 76 77 74
228
S-A Lim (Mas) 72 81 75
J Y Lee (Kor) 74 75 79
229
C Kerr (US) 74 78 77
230
S Bennett (GB) 75 81 74
231
K J Kim (Kor) 77 79 75
J Crowe (GB) 76 74 81
233
M H Kim (Kor) 79 78 76
Y J Park (Kor) 83 73 77
234
J S Nam (Kor) 75 79 80
237
D Reid (Scot) 79 79 79

EUROPEAN CUP (Praia D'El Rey, Port): **Second day fourballs** (Senior Tour first, GB/Ire unless stated): **E Polland/D Jones** bt S Gustafson/C Nilsmark (Swe) 1up; D O'Sullivan/B Verwey halved with K Lunn/T Johnson; **N Coles/J Rhodes** bt L Fairclough/M Hjorth (Swe) 4&3; **B Waites/B Huggett** bt M de Lorenzi/A Nicholas (Fr) 1up; **C O'Connor jnr/T Horton** bt C Matthew/M McKay 4&3. **Score:** Senior Men 4½ European LPGA 1½. **Overall score** (after second day): Senior Men 6½ European LPGA 3½.

Singles (Senior men names first): D O'Sullivan lost to **S Gustafson** 4&3; B Waites lost to **T Johnson** 2&1; B Verwey lost to **C Matthew** 4&2; J Rhodes lost to **K Lunn** 3&2; B Huggett halved with C Nilsmark; **N Coles** bt A Nicholas 2&1; D **Jones** bt L Fairclough 2&1; E Polland lost to **M Hjorth** 5&4; **C O'Connor** jnr bt M McKay 5&4; T Horton lost to **M Laura de Lorenzi** 4&2. **Score:** Senior men 3½ European LPGA 6½. **Overall score:** Senior men 10 European LPGA 10

TENNIS

ATP KREMLIN CUP (Moscow): **Semi-finals: Y Kafelnikov** (Rus) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-1 2-0 ret; **G Ivanisevic** (Cro) bt A Clement (Fr) 7-5 6-2. **Final: Kafelnikov** bt Ivanisevic 7-6 7-6.
ATP STOCKHOLM OPEN (Sweden): **Semi-finals: T Martin** (US) bt T Henman (GB) 4-6 6-1 6-2; **T Johansson** (Swe) bt G Rusedski (GB) 7-5 7-6. **Final: Martin** bt Johansson 6-3 6-4 6-4. **Doubles final: J Palmer/J Tarango** (US) bt Y Kafelnikov/D Vacek (Rus/Cz) 6-4 6-7 6-3.
ATP CHEVROLET CUP (Santiago): **Quarter-finals: J A Marin** (C Rica) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-4 6-7 7-5; **F Mantilla** (Sp) bt J Courier (US) 3-6 6-3 7-6; **F Clavet** (Sp) bt N Lapentti (Ecu) 6-4 6-4; **Y El Aynaoui** (Mor) bt M Puerto (Arg) 6-2 1-0 ret. **Semi-finals: El Aynaoui** bt Mantilla 6-4 6-4; **Clavet** bt Marin 6-2 7-5. **Final: Clavet** bt El Aynaoui 6-2 6-4.
WTA ADVANTA CHAMPIONSHIP (Philadelphia): **Quarter-finals: S Graf** (Ger) bt M Hingis (Switz) 6-2 4-6 6-0. **Semi-finals: Graf** bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-1 6-4; **L Davenport** (US) bt M Seles (US) 6-3 6-8.
GIROBANK TOUR (Sheffield): **Finals: Men: N Weal** (Hampshire) bt P Hand (Berkshire) 6-3 6-2. **Women: H Reesby** (Notts) bt C Seal (Leics) 7-5 6-2.
LTA LADIES CHALLENGER (Hull): **Semi-finals: F Lubiani** (It) bt K Cross (Devon) 6-4 6-7 6-1; **B Schwartz** (Aut) bt P Mandula (Hun) 7-6 6-1. **Final: Schwartz** bt Lubiani 3-6 6-3 6-2.

BADMINTON

TOUR MATCH (Weston-super-Mare): England 3 China 2 (Series score: China lead 4-1).
Stevenage (England names first): **Mixed doubles:** I Sullivan/G Emms lost to **D Chentabel/L Ying** 15-1 11-15 12-15. **Women's singles:** T Hallam lost to **D Fang** 5-11 1-11. **Men's singles:** R Nock lost to **X Hui** 8-15 2-15. **Women's doubles:** J Goode/G Emms lost to **G Ling/L Ying** 10-15 6-15. **Mixed doubles:** A Clark/J Sullivan lost to **X Xuewza/C Yun** 15-7 9-16 6-15. **Match result:** China 5 England 0. **Series result:** China 5 England 1.

The series: Gateshead (Monday) China won 4-1. Grantham (Tuesday) China won 3-2. Portsmouth (Wednesday) China won 3-2. St Austell (Thursday) China won 3-2. Weston-Super-Mare (Friday) England won 3-2. Stevenage (Saturday) China won 5-0

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham 77 Derby 85; London Leopards 91 Chester Jets 95; Leicester Riders 82 London Towers 72; Milton Keynes Lions 75 Newcastle Eagles 79; Sheffield Sharks 115 Greater London Leopards 81.

BOBSLEIGH

WORLD CUP (Calgary, Can)
Four-man bobsleigh: 1 Germany III (A Lange, C Hayder, E Kuehn, L Behrendt) 1min 51.12sec; **2** Germany I (C Langen, S Ruehr, T Platzer, S Peter) 1.51.22; **3** France I (B Mingeon, M Andre, E Hostache, M Robert) 1.51.25; **4** Britain I (S Olsson, D Ward, A Lewis, E Sekwalor) 1.51.34; **5** Switzerland II; **6** Switzerland I 1.51.44, **7** Germany II 1.51.45; **8** Canada I 1.51.54; **9** Latvia I 1.51.87; **10** Italy I.

BOWLS

HONG KONG PAIRS (Kowloon): **Quarter-finals:** England 19 Canada 16; HKLBA 20 Hong Kong 14; Australia 24 NZ 15; Wales 29 S Africa 11.

BOXING

WBA STRAW-WEIGHT TITLE (Las Vegas): **R Lopez** (Mex) bt R Alvarez (Nic) pts.

CHESS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ZONAL (Andorra): **Round 8:** A Miles (Eng) ½ J Dorfman (Fr) ½; J Speelman (Eng) 1 M Hebden (Eng) 0. **Round 9:** Miles ½ F Nijboer (Neth) ½; J Piket (Neth) 0 Speelman 1. **Final standings:** C Bauer, Dorfman (Fr), D Reinderman, Nalbjoer, L van Wely (Neth), J Magem (Sp), Miles, Speelman 6/9.
Speed play-off (for six championship places): Dorfman, van Wely eliminated.
WORLD SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Grieskirchen, Aut): **Round 5: Leaders:** V Bagirov (Lat), B Ivkov (Yugo), O Chernikov, B Gruzmann (Rus) 4½. **Also:** B Cafferty (Eng) 3½.
MONARCH ASSURANCE OPEN (Port Erin, IoM): **Round 8:** E Sutovsky (Isr) ½ A Baburin (Ire) ½; N Short (Eng) 1 I Rausis (Lat) 0, C Hanley (Eng) 1 A Summerscale (Eng) 0. **Round 9:** J Ehlvest (Est) ½ Short ½; Sutovsky 1 N Miezis (Lat) 0. **Final standings:** Short, Sutovsky 7; Ehlvest, Baburin, D Fridman (Isr), A Ledger (Eng) 6.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (Kimberley): Griqualand West 271. West Indies 327-6 (B Lara 101, C Hooper 84no).

MERCANTILE CUP (Adelaide): South Australia 172 (T Nielsen 39; Bradstreet 2-17; 49.4 overs). New South Wales 173-3 (M Taylor 58; Harrity 2-37; 44.3 overs). New South Wales won by seven wickets.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Third day: Western Australia 319-9 dec and 53-3 (Saker 3-18). Victoria 254-9 dec (J Arnberger 37; Nicholson 3-49).

CROSS COUNTRY

NATIONAL RELAYS (Mansfield): **Senior men: 1** Birchfield 1hr 01min 57sec; **2** Shaftesbury 1:2.21; **3** Salford 1:2.44; **4** Morpeth 1.3.07; **5** London Irish 1:3.21; **6** Bingley 1.3.35; **7** Southampton 1:3.55; **8** Hounslow 1:3.58; **9** Sale 1:4.23; **10** Leeds 1:4.56; **11** Sunderland 1:4.59, **12** Norwich 1:6.17.
Senior women: 1 Shaftsbury 31.46; **2** Sale 31.53; **3** Hounslow 32.29; **4** Birchfield 32.50; **5** Charnwood 33.03; **6** Derby 33.05; **7** Altringham 33.31; **8** Bristol 33.40, **9** Morpeth 33.48; **10** Trafford 34.08; **11** Bedford 34.24; **12** Sale B 34.33.
Men U-17: 1 Sunderland 39.13; **2** Hounslow 39.33; **3** Windsor, Slough and Eton 39.56; **4** Morpeth 39.57; **5** Aldershot 40.08; **6** Bristol 40.17; **7** Swindon 40.20; **8** Blackheath 40.30; **9** Stoke 40.39; **10** Oadby & Wigston 40.43; **11** Shaftesbury 40.47; **12** Staffordshire Moorlands 40.52.
Junior men: 1 Aldershot Farnham 37.45, **2** Loughborough Students 38.20, **3** Solihull & Smallheath 38.27, **4** Morpeth 38.51, **5** Crawley 38.57, **6** Sale 38.59; **7** Coventry Godiva 39.29; **8** Oadby & Wigston 40.05; **9** Blackheath 40.28, **10** Altrincham 40.32; **11** Shaftesbury Barnet 40.41; **12** Hallamshire 40.45.
Women U-17: 1 Ipswich 27.58; **2** Stoke 28.30; **3** Aldershot Farnham 28.46; **4** Charnwood 28.57; **5** Peterborough 29.22; **6** Morpeth 29.34; **7** Solihull & Smallheath 29.39; **8** Shaftesbury Barnet 29.48; **9** Kettering 29.48; **10** Derby 29.48; **11** Rushcliffe 29.48; **12** Norwich 29.59.
Junior women: 1 Charnwood 28.31; **2** Coventry Godiva 29.40; **3** Skipton 30.08; **4** Derby 30.13; **5** Northumbria University 30.30; **6** Peterborough 30.41; **7** Sale 30.47; **8** Milton Keynes 31.02; **9** Aldershot Farnham 31.41; **10** Morpeth 31.48.

FIGURE SKATING

GRAND PRIX (Gelsenkirchen, Ger): **Last day: Women's final: 1** E Sokolova (Rus) 1.5pts; **2** J Lavrenschuk (Ukr) 3.5; **3** M Butyrskaya (Rus) 4.0; **4** A Rechnio (Pol) 6.0; **5** J Robinson (Can) 8.0, **6** B McConn (US) 9.5; **7** H Yokoya (Japan) 9.5; **8** E-M Fitze (Ger) 12.0; **9** F Guenther (Ger) 13.5.

HOCKEY

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Beeston 2 Teddington 1; Brooklands 1 Loughtonians 2; Cannock 2 Reading 2; E Grinstead 3 Guildford 5, Hounslow 2 Canterbury 3; Southgate 3 Bournville 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canterbury	6	5	1	0	28	12	16
Southgate	5	5	0	0	17	9	15
Cannock	6	4	2	0	26	11	14
Reading	5	3	1	1	16	11	10
Guildford	5	3	1	1	21	18	10
Bournville	6	2	2	2	11	16	8
Beeston	5	2	1	2	12	14	7
O Loughtonians	5	2	0	3	12	17	6
Teddington	5	1	0	4	9	15	3
Hounslow	6	0	2	4	11	19	2
Brooklands	5	0	0	5	8	17	0
E Grinstead	5	0	0	5	8	21	0

First Division: Chelmsford 1 Bromley 2; Doncaster 3 Hampstead 2; Harleston M 4 Barford T 4; Havant 1 Loughboro S 2; Hull 0 Isca 3; Indian Gym 6 Oxford Univ 1; Lewes 2 Stourport 2; Oxford Hawks 2 Firebrands 2; St Albans 2 Eastcote 3, *Sheffield* 2 Surbiton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stourport	7	5	1	1	29	13	16
Surbiton	7	5	1	1	26	13	16
Doncaster	7	5	1	1	18	8	16
Havant	7	5	0	2	19	14	15
Barford T	7	4	2	1	25	16	14
Lewes	7	4	2	1	20	11	14
Lough Stud	7	3	3	1	14	11	12
Eastcote	7	3	1	3	21	19	10
Chelmsford	7	3	1	3	21	20	10
Hampstead	7	3	1	3	15	17	10
Isca	7	3	1	3	16	20	10
Indian Gym	7	2	3	2	21	21	9
Oxford Hks	7	1	5	1	14	14	8
Harleston	7	1	4	2	20	21	7
Firebrands	7	2	1	4	19	22	7
St Albans	6	2	1	4	21	25	7
Hull	7	1	1	5	5	23	4
Sheffield	7	0	3	4	13	25	3
Bromley	7	1	0	6	10	23	3
Oxford Univ	7	0	2	5	11	23	2

EHA CUP: Third round: Beckenham 2 Wimbledon 4; Blackheath 2 Old Georgians 4; Bournemouth 0 Indian Gym 2; Bournville 8 Peterboro T 1, Bromley 1 Trojans 1 (2-1 pens); Cannock 6 Beeston 2; Canterbury 8 Cambs C 1; Chelmsford 5 Yeovil 3, Clacton 5 Eastcote 2; Doncaster 4 Barford T 2, Edgbaston 2 Brooklands 7; Epsom 2 Winchester 2 (2-3 pens); Firebrands 2 Southgate 3; Guildford 3 Old Loughtonians 5, Harleston M 1 Teddington 6; Harrogate 2 Khalsa 1; Havant 2 Reading 5, Hull 1 Northampton Sts 3; Isca 3 Chichester 5; Lewes 8 Bluecharts 1; Neston 0 Loughboro Students 4, Norton 3 Preston 0; Nottingham 4 Olton 3 (aet); Old Cranleighans 4 Hampstead 3; Old de Ferrarians 0 East Grinstead 10; Oxford Hawks 1 Hounslow 4; Phoenix 1 Pelicans 5; Richmond 2 Sudbury 1; Robinsons 5 Letchworth 2; Sheffield 4 Coventry 1; Stourport 1, Bowdon 3; Surbiton 3 St Albans 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Dundee W 5 Clydesdale 1; Grange 3 Kelburne 2; Western 6 Inverleith 0. (Yesterday): Inverleith 2 Edinburgh Univ 4. Gordonians 3 Clydesdale 4. **Standings: 1** Western 11-33; **2** MIM 10-24; **3** Grange 11-22; **4** Dundee W 11-21.

WOMEN'S ENGLISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ipswich 2 Hightown 1; Leicester 4 Clifton 2; Olton 3 Doncaster 2; Slough 5 S Coldfield 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	6	5	1	0	17	4	16
Slough	5	4	1	0	18	9	13
Olton	6	2	3	1	12	13	9
Leicester	6	2	2	2	10	12	8
Clifton	6	2	1	3	9	10	7
Hightown	6	0	5	1	10	11	6
Sutton	6	1	0	5	9	18	3
Doncaster	5	0	1	4	9	16	1

First Division: Aldridge 2 Sunderland 0; Bradford 1 Loughboro S 1; Canterbury 5 Wimbledon 1; Trojans 1 Chelmsford 1. **Standings: 1** Aldridge 13, **2** Canterbury 12; **3** Trojans 9
Second Division: Bracknell 2 Sherwood 1; Ealing 2 St Albans 0; Old Loughtonians 4 Hampton-in-Arden 1, Poynton 1 Woking 5. **Standings: 1** Woking 18; **2** Ealing 15; **3** St Albans 10
WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath 3 Newtown 5; Cwmtawe 0 Penarth 1; Newport 3 Colwyn Bay 7; Swansea 10 UWIC 4. (Yesterday): Cardiff Ath 1 Colwyn Bay 6; Newport 1 Newtown 4; Penarth 0 Swansea 7; UWIC 6 Cwmtawe 2. **Standings: 1** Swansea 5-10; **2** Newtown 3-6; **3** Penarth 5-5
EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Third round: Aldridge 8 Letchworth 0; Banbury 0 Woking 6; Basingstoke 1 Trojans 6; Billingham 2 Morpeth 0; Blackburn N 3 Bromsgrove 0; Canterbury 6 Worcester N 0; Clifton SL wo Cambs C; Crosby 0 Hightown 7; Driffield 2 Northampton 2; Dulwich 4 Sunderland A 3; Ealing 1, Old Loughtonians 1 (4-3 pens); Eastbourne 3 Epsom 3 (5-4 pens); Exeter 1 Chester 2; Exmouth 0 Harleston M 4, Hampton 3 Ipswich 6; Havant 0 Slough 12; Kettering 0 Doncaster 9; Leyland M 1 BSE 1 (1-2 pens); Liverpool S 5 Wallington 0; Luton T 2 Basildon 1; Maidenhead 0 Horsham 1; Middleton 0 Loughboro S 9; Olton T 4 Sunbury 0; Pickwick OS 0 Bradford 6; Sheffield 7 Matlock B 1; Sherwood 3 W Witney 2; St Albans 1 Leicester 4; Sutton C 7 St Austell 0; Tulse Hill 1 Poynton 0; Walton 1 Bracknell 9; Wimbledon 7 Surbiton 0; Winchmore Hill 0 Chelmsford H 7.

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr 4 Manchester 3; London 3 Bracknell 4 (OT); Nottingham 4 Newcastle 2.
BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Fife 4 Paisley 1; Kingston 5 Edinburgh 6 (OT); Slough 2 Guildford 3; Telford 2 Basingstoke 5.

SPEED SKATING

WORLD CUP (Hamar, Nor).
Women's 1500m: 1 G Niemann-Stirnemann (Ger) 1min 59.76sec; **2** C Witty (US) 2.00.02; **3** C Pechstein (Ger) 2.00.24, **4** J Rodriguez (US) 2.00.68; **5** T de Jong (Neth) 2.00.79; **6** A Thomas (Neth) 2.01.32; **7** M Tabata (Japan) 2.01.48; **8** A Friesinger (Ger) 2.01.73; **9** M Wijsman (Neth) 2.02.13, **10** R Groenewold (Neth) 2.02.40.

SQUASH

WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Stuttgart): **Semi-finals:** Australia 3 South Africa 0; England 2 New Zealand 1 (L Charman bt P Beams 9-5 9-3 9-2, S Wright lost to L Joyce 6-9 5-9 8-10, J Martin bt S Cook 9-6 9-1 9-4). **Final:** Australia 3 England 0 (Aus first: M Martin bt Sue Wright 9-3 3-9 9-10 9-2 9-5; **C Owens** bt J Martin 9-4 9-7 9-1; **S Fitz-Gerald** bt S Horner 9-6 9-4 (best of 3 games). **3/4 play-off:** New Zealand 2 South Africa 1 (NZ first: **L Joyce** bt N Grainger 9-10 9-2 3-1 9-1; **S Cook** bt A Clifton-Parks 9-6 9-4 10-9; P Beams lost to **C Hitch** 2-9 0-9 (best of 3 games).
Final standings: 1 Australia; **2** England; **3** New Zealand; **4** South Africa; **5** Germany; **6** Netherlands; **7** France. **8** Egypt; **9** United States; **10** Canada; **11** Belgium; **12** Scotland; **13** Switzerland, **14** Ireland, **15** Spain; **16** Sweden; **17** Denmark; **18** Hong Kong; **19** Nigeria; **20** Austria; **21** Colombia. **Lower place play-offs: Germany** bt Netherlands 2-1; **France** bt Egypt 2-1; **US** bt Canada 2-1; **Belgium** bt Scotland 2-1 (Belgian first: **K Hannes** bt P Nimmo 9-6 5-9 6-9 9-1 9-4, A Romodenne lost to **H Macfie** 6-9 2-9 9-5 2-9; **K Cauwels** bt W Maitland 9-3 2-9 9-1 9-2); **Switzerland** bt Ireland 2-1 (Swiss first: **A Mueller** bt L Mylotte 9-4 9-2 9-1, **G Schmohl** bt E Lapthorne 9-6 9-3 9-3; A Mueller lost to **O French** 5-9 1-9); **Spain** bt Sweden 3-0, **Austria** bt Colombia 3-0; **Hong Kong** bt Nigeria 2-1.
BRITISH SATELLITE CIRCUIT (Dulfield): **Men's Semi-finals: P Hargrave** (Derbyshire) bt S Meads (Berkshire) 15-5 15-12 15-3; **P Lord** (Cheshire) bt T Garner (Sussex) 15-9 15-10 15-2. **Final: Hargrave** bt Lord 9-15 15-14 15-11 2-0 ret.
Women's Semi-finals: R Macree (Essex) bt S Brind (Kent) 1-9 9-8 4-9 9-6; **J Tranfield** (Yorks) bt T Bailey (Lincs) 9-3 9-6 9-2. **Final: Tranfield** bt Macree 10-9 9-6 9-6

VOLLEYBALL

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Kobe, Japan): **Final preliminary round: Group A:** Spain 3 Egypt 2 (9-15 13-15 15-8 15-1 16-14); Japan 3 South Korea 0 (15-8 15-12 15-2). **Group B:** Canada 3 Thailand 0 (15-3 15-7 15-11); Italy 3 United States 1 (15-4 15-11 12-15 15-7). **Group C:** Ukraine 3 Czech Republic 0 (15-5 15-6 15-6), Netherlands 3 China 1 (9-15 15-11 15-7 15-9). **Group D:** Poland 3 Iran 0 (15-5 15-2 15-8); Cuba 3 Argentina 0 (15-7 15-8 15-9). **Group E:** Greece 3 Algeria 1 (15-6 15-11 13-15 15-12); Brazil 3 Bulgaria 0 (15-4 15-6 15-6). **Group F:** Australia 3 Turkey 2 (15-8 9-15 9-15 15-13 15-10); Yugoslavia 3 Russia 2 (14-16 14-16 15-6 15-12 16-14)

Fixtures

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Nottm Forest v Derby (8.0).
FA TROPHY: First round: Leatherhead v Crawley Tn (7.30).
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Leicester v Man Utd (7.0). **First Division:** Wolverhampton v Burnley (7.0). **Cup: Group Four:** Sheff Utd v Huddersfield (2.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Arsenal v Fulham (3.0); Chelsea v Southampton (7.0); Reading v Portsmouth (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Bridgend v Mid-District XV.

هكذا من الاصل

مكتبا من الاعمال

Racing

Chris Hawkins reports from Cheltenham on the latest controversy surrounding the champion jockey

McCoy escapes whip gesture trouble

NO action is likely to be taken against Tony McCoy after he threw his whip into the crowd gathered around in the unsaddling enclosure following his victory on Cyfor Malta in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday.

John Maxse, public relations officer of the Jockey Club, commented: "The stewards' secretaries have watched the video of the incident and the evidence is inconclusive. I think it is unlikely any further action will be taken, but such a decison will have to be made at Portman Square rather than Cheltenham."

McCoy is due to appear before the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee this afternoon under the "totting-up" rule after being found guilty of a fifth whip offence this year at Fontwell last Monday.

He certainly did himself no favours with his petulant act on Saturday and seems to the be on the verge of believing he is bigger than the game; the unfortunate state of affairs which is currently ruining professional football with players apparently under the impression that they rule the roost.

Heaven forbid that racing should be dragged down to that level and the authorities have the chance today to give McCoy a salutary lesson.

Here is a young man, already twice champion jockey, with the best job in racing and assured of amassing a sizeable fortune. He has the world at his feet, but this does not mean he is above the law.

McCoy feels he is being singled out by the stewards. He may well be under more scrutiny, but the reason for this is that he wins more races than anyone else and, therefore, presents the stewards with more opportunities to examine his style.

One of his great strengths is his determination, but he cannot be allowed to let it run unbridled just because he is the best.

Many professional observers felt the Fontwell stewards were harsh on him on Monday. However, he forfeited any sympathy he might have been due after his behaviour on Saturday.

Apparently winning on Cyfor Malta was not enough for McCoy. Most jockeys would simply have been grateful for the glory and the chance to ride such a brilliant young chaser who could one day win the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Cyfor Malta became the first five-year-old to win the Murphy's Gold Cup in its 40-year history and clearly possesses extraordinary ability, but he is not quite the complete article yet and whether he will stay the three and a quarter miles of chasing's Blue Riband is the question still to be answered.

We should get a good idea if he runs in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday week where, even with a penalty, he will be well handicapped. Coral's have him 9-4 favourite, although a more generous 4-1 is available with the Tote.

For the Gold Cup the sponsors make him a 10-1 chance (from 20's), while a fearful Ladbrokes have him as short as 7-1 second favourite behind Florida Pearl at 5-1.

A nasty incident which caused plenty of anxiety after Saturday's race was the fall of Senor El Betrutti resulting in Graham Bradley being stretchered off and taken to hospital in great pain from a back injury.

Happily, Bradley suffered no serious damage and was back in action in the first race yesterday, giving Door To Door a tremendous ride to finish second to Arctic Camper in the Phoenix Property Novice Hurdle. Simon Sherwood, trainer of the runner-up, paid tribute to Bradley saying: "I didn't expect him to ride, but he rang up this morning saying he was all right.

"Since I gave up riding I'd forgotten what a mad lot these jump jockeys are. But seriously, Brad is a great pro and all being well he'll be on Suny Bay at Haydock on Wednesday."

Jamie Osborne's trials and tribulations this year have been well chronicled, but he showed when winning on Grey Shot in the Murphy's Draughtflow Hurdle that he is riding as well as ever after seriously contemplating the end of his career with a badly broken left wrist.

Osborne said after his latest success on Ian Balding's horse: "Now I'm back and I can't tell you how good it feels. I just hope to God it keeps going."

Osborne could have a Champion Hurdle contender in Grey Shot, who outstayed dual winner Tyrolean Dream to earn a 12-1 quote form Ladbrokes for the championship in March, although Hill's make him a 16-1 chance.



On target . . . Grey Shot (right) and Jamie Osborne clear the last hurdle ahead of Tyrolean Dream PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT

Tennis

Rusedski has little to smile about

Stephen Bierley in Stockholm

YEVGENY Kafelnikov, needing to win his home tournament in Moscow, duly clinched the eighth and final place at this year's lucrative ATP Championship Finals in Hanover when he defeated Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia 7-6, 7-6 yesterday, the two players exchanging huge grins at the net after Kafelnikov had struck the clinching forehand.

The largest grin of the weekend might have belonged to the perennially smiling Greg Rusedski, but Saturday's 7-5, 7-6 semi-final defeat by Sweden's Thomas Johansson in the Stockholm Open was the concluding roadblock on his late charge along the road to Hanover.

It was too much for him to expect Ivanisevic to pull the fat out of the fire. "The crowd will lynch Goran if he wins," Rusedski joked after his mortifying defeat by Johansson. "It's impossible for Yevgeny to lose." And so it was.

There remains a small possibility that another enigma, namely Marcelo Rios, might yet allow Rusedski to sneak in. The little Chilean, no stranger to controversy, lost to Spain's Juan Antonio Marin, ranked No. 88, in the quarter-finals of his home event in Santiago on Friday, and afterwards complained of back troubles.

But will he miss the big one? "No chance," said Rusedski. "There's too much money involved." Furthermore, Rios can still snatch the end-of-season No. 1 spot away from Pete Sampras, beaten here in the first round.

Rusedski missed his second successive appearance in Hanover by a mere 32 points, and would have surely romped in but for his ankle injury at Queen's which totally disrupted his season.

He looked both weary and nervous against Johansson, producing an uncharacteristically desultory performance. Indeed he seemed to have psyched himself out of this match before it was played.

No doubt his exertions in France the week before, when he won the Paris Indoor Open, took their toll, while a small pull in his right buttock during his quarter-final victory over the Canadian Daniel Nestor on Friday, an emotionally draining match given their shared background, added to his overall discomfort.

Rusedski was hugely disappointed, for not only did he fail to join Tim Henman in Hanover but he also lost his chance to be in the top 10 at the end of the year, and to reclaim the British No. 1 spot. A treble whammy.

Rusedski's effort had been immense, including nine matches in the last two weeks. "I was a bit slow against Thomas and at this level fractions of a second make all the difference."

Rusedski is the official first reserve for Hanover, and will play if somebody gets injured during the tournament, as Henman did last year.

Henman's semi-final 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 defeat by Todd Martin, who yesterday beat a forlorn Johansson 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in a one-sided final, was an unfocused and weary performance, but Henman's level of disappointment was obviously ameliorated by having secured his place in the ATP finals on Friday.

Both departed on Saturday night, leaving Stockholm to fresh snow, Madonna (who allowed the hordes of photographers less time than a Rios interview) and Martin. A fond farewell from Henman; a miserable one from Rusedski.

● Steffi Graf reached the final of the Advanta Championships in Villanova, Pennsylvania by beating Nathalie Tauziat 6-1 6-4, having earlier defeated Martina Hingis in the quarter-finals. The German former world No. 1 set up a meeting with the current No. 1, the American Lindsay Davenport.

Plumpton programme

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.05	Polar Flight	Herik
1.40	Raffles Rooster	Raffles Rooster
2.10	Alpine Panther (nb)	Alpine Panther
2.40	Dancetillyoudrop	Rabanine Melody
3.10	A-El-Cee	Secureon Gale
3.40	Glowing Path	Hal Hoo Yaroom (nb)

Left-handed circuit of 1m1f with 200yds run-in. Tight track but finish is uphill and the ground often gets heavy.
Going: Soft, Good to Soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: 1.40 Raffles Rooster.
Blinkered first time or visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F,Flat.

1.05 CURRAGH NOVICE HURDLE
2m 4f £2,373 (13 declared)

1 Brighter Byrock (225) N Graham 5-10-12 — P Hide —
2 F0- Gardiwell Cobb (187) R Rowe 5-10-12 — R McCarthy (7) —
3 3- Daybreak Rambler (232) P Winkworth 6-10-12 — O McPhail (5) —
4 P-32 Herik (24) (BF) G L Moore 4-10-12 — G Bradley ●90
5 I'm Ioran C Egerton 7-10-12 — D Gallagher —
6 3-4 Irish Option (35) J Gifford 5-10-12 — L Aspell 85
7 3/F0-3 Kernel (31) K Bell 6-10-12 — G Upton 86
8 12- North Tyne (237) R Alner 4-10-12 — A Thornton —
9 00-P Pompeord Pilot (118) P Hedger 5-10-12 — M Richards —
10 02- Polar Flight (196) Miss V Williams 4-10-12 — N Williamson 89
11 Rose Babe (F25) C Collins(IRE) 4-10-12 — P Hide —
12 P0F-0P Smart Boy (14) Mrs L Jewell 6-10-12 — T Peoples (7) —
13 131/0- Rural Run (336) P Nicholls 7-10-7 — J Tizzard —

Betting: 9-4 Polar Flight, 11-4 Herik, 9-2 Irish Option, 7-1 North Tyne, 10-1 Rose Babe, 12-1 I'm Ioran, 14-1 Rural Run.

1.40 TOTE NOVICE CHASE
2m 5f £4,182 (5 declared)

1 /232-1 Raffles Rooster (7) Miss V Williams 6-11-5 — N Williamson ●90
2 P043-6 Cheeky Charlie (20) G L Moore 6-10-13 — P Hide ★ —
3 300-4P Joker Jack (16) R Dean 13-10-13 — T Dascombe —
4 3229P- Kelly Mac (215) (C) D O'Brien 8-10-13 — A Thornton 89
5 5PP-PP Soavo (140) D O'Brien 7-10-13 — M Batchelor (5) —

Betting: 4-5 Raffles Rooster, 9-4 Kelly Mac, 9-2 Cheeky Charlie, 25-1 Soavo, 33-1 Joker Jack.

2.10 PERSHING SECURITES G.L.C.T. CLAIMING HURDLE
2m 4f £3,550 (5 declared)

1 12501- Alpine Panther (F25) (D) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-6 — P Niven ●90
2 14444- Tickerty's Gift (241) (D) G L Moore 6-11-0 — M Batchelor (5) 88
3 0/33-5 Absolute Proof (9) W G M Turner 5-10-9 — J Power (7) 86
4 1-1161 Auburn Boy (35) (C) I Williams 11-10-6 — N Williamson 88
5 523-06 Sorbiere (36) D Grissell 11-10-6 — A Thornton —

Betting: 5-4 Alpine Panther, 9-4 Auburn Boy, 7-2 Tickerty's Gift, 12-1 Sorbiere, 16-1 Absolute Proof.

2.40 BRITISH EQUESTRIAN INSURANCE BROKERS HANDICAP CHASE
3m 1f 110yds £4,143 (6 declared)

1 11114/ Rabanine Melody (12) A J Martin(IRE) 6-12-0 — G Bradley ●90
2 U1FF2- Rightsaidfred (262) (D) Miss A M Newton-Smith 10-11-11 — Mr P Bull 88
3 2FP3- Dancetillyoudrop (156) P Nicholls 7-11-4 — J Tizzard 86
4 0P1-P4 Another Deadly (12) (C) T Casey 11-11-1 — M Clarke —
5 442-34 Mr Chataway (14) D Grissell 7-10-13 — A Thornton 87
6 322/R- Whippers Delight (527) (C) G Charles-Jones 10-10-10 — Mr A Charles-Jones —

Betting: 2-1 Dancetillyoudrop, 3-1 Rabanine Melody, 7-2 Mr Chataway, 6-1 Rightsaidfred, 8-1 Another Deadly, 12-1 Whippers Delight.

3.10 SMURFIT MAIDEN CHASE
2m 5f £3,209 (10 declared)

1 2/43-F A-El-Cee (11) (BF) S Sherwood 7-11-6 — G Bradley —
2 53121- I've Copped It (219) R Hoad 8-11-6 — A Thornton —
3 20330/ Ivy Boy (607) C Mann 8-11-6 — Mr R Pelly (7) —
4 PP- Jennifer's Wells (307) D O'Brien 8-11-6 — P Hide —
5 P1P4/4 Melling (13) R Hodges 7-11-6 — J Harris (5) 88
6 PP11-4 Mr Mccarney (12) P Nicholls 6-11-6 — J Tizzard —
7 4 Rattler Courier (17) J Upson 6-11-6 — J Supple —
8 /PP-00 Secureon Gale (18) R Rowe 6-11-6 — L Aspell ●90
9 /21P2- Viking Rod (196) M Wilkinson 6-11-6 — G Bazin (7) —
10 0U08-6 Fountain Villa (18) M Madgwick 5-11-5 — M Richards —

Betting: 8-11 A-El-Cee, 7-2 Mr Mccarney, 10-1 Rattler Courier, 12-1 I've Copped It, 14-1 Viking Rod, 20-1 Ivy Boy, Melling, Secureon Gale.

3.40 LADBROKE LAST RACE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 1f £2,670 (5 declared)

1 5-4133 Hal Hoo Yaroom (39) (CD) (BF) J Jenkins 5-11-10 — N Williamson ●90
2 605111 Glowing Path (13) (CD) R Hodges 8-11-6 — T Dascombe 88
3 0/3-5F Fort Knox (12) (CD) R Flower 7-11-3 — P Hide 88
4 F32-00 Dick McCarthy (14) R Rowe 6-11-7 — R McCarthy (7) 87
5 1656-0 Dersbey (13) (CD) J Bridger 10-10-6 — L Cummins (5) 87

Betting: 5-4 Glowing Path, 9-4 Hal Hoo Yaroom, 6-1 Fort Knox, 7-1 Dersbey, 10-1 Dick McCarthy.

Danzino back on right track

DANZINO looks a sporting nap to make a winning return on the all-weather in the 49's Handicap at Wolverhampton today, *writes Tony Paley*.

Norma Macauley's runner beat Law Dancer on sand in June at the Midlands venue in good enough style to suggest there were more races to be won with him.

His five unplaced efforts since have all been on the turf to which he looks unsuited and he is a much better prospect than those runs indicate. Danzino (3.30) has run well fresh and after 60 days off the track is worth supporting at the 16-1 available with the bookmakers this morning.

Mary Reveley sends Alpine Panther (2.10) on the long trip down south to Plumpton for the Pershing Securities Claiming Hurdle and the hint appears worth taking.

Leicester Jackpot card

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
12.50	Dutch Dyane	Mamnibb Olestears
1.20	Rabamass	Silver Star
1.50	Robsand	Debt Of Honor
2.20	Simons Castle	Dictamn
2.50	Charming Girl	Charming Girl (nap)
3.20	L'Idefix	L'Idefix
3.50	Molsum	World Express

Right-handed circuit of 1¾m with 250yds run-in. Stiff test with the last three furlongs uphill.
Going: Chases: Good, Hurdles: Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 12.50 Octavia Hill; 1.20 Hey Up Mate; 1.50 Three Saints; 1.50 Primitive Penny. **Visored:** 1.50 Robsand.

12.50 MARES' ONLY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £2,882 (15 declared)

101 504-01 Dark Romance (11) Miss Z Davison 6-11-12 — C Maude 86
102 1P1F-5 Carlingford Gale (44) (D) T George 7-11-10 — M A Fitzgerald —
103 20242- Mamnibb Olestears (194) S Gollings 7-11-6 — S Durack ●90
104 F00002 Moscow Maid (20) P Cummins 5-11-3 — M P Madden (7) ★ 89
105 1U55P/ Paris Fashion (638) (D) C A Smith 7-10-9 — T Jenks —
106 46F3/0 Poplin (11) Mrs D Haine 7-10-8 — B Fenton 85
107 00515F Octavia Hill (13) J Bradley 5-10-7 — R Johnson ★ 88
108 244-33 Dutch Dyane (F25) G Enright 5-10-4 — A Maguire 88
109 FP452- Stray Harmony (195) R Smith 8-10-4 — J Goldstein (5) 84
110 230233 Cruz Santa (23) M Chapman 5-10-3 — W Worthington 88
111 2/FP3- Brancepeth Belle (207) N Mason 6-10-1 — K Johnson 83
112 30-F50 Crazy Crusader (11) D Gandolfo 6-10-0 — S Wynne ★ 86
113 00500- Precious Island (246) J Pickering 5-10-0 — Gary Lyons —
114 50503- Calliope (198) A Carroll 6-10-0 — A Scholes (7) 83
115 PP-0 Carracioe Rose (13) C Morlock 5-10-0 — J R Kavanagh —

Betting: 5-1 Octavia Hill, 11-2 Mamnibb Olestears, 6-1 Dark Romance, 7-1 Moscow Maid, Stray Harmony, 8-1 Dutch Dyane, 10-1 Poplin, Cruz Santa.

FORM GUIDE - Dark Romance: Held up, headway approaching 2 out, led last, ran on well, won by 3l from Country House, with Poplin (levels) 7th of 14, btn 14l, Crazy Crusader (levels) 8th, btn 23l, at Towcester 2m nov hdle, Sft. Mamnibb Olestears: Led until approaching 3 out, kept on well from next, 2nd of 19, 3l behind Auto Pilot at Wetherby 2m4f nov hdle, Gd. Octavia Hill: Led to 2nd, lost place, headway to lead 3 out, headed and every chance when fell having jumped the last, in race won by Life's Work at Exeter 2m6f nov hcap hdle, Sft.

1.20 JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE
2m £2,616 (14 declared)

201 6-392 Round Robin (11) Mrs A E Johnson 4-11-7 — R Johnson ★ 86
202 603-50 Silver Star (18) D Burchell 4-11-7 — D J Burchell ●90
203 0-003 Marsh Marigold (11) B Pierro 4-11-2 — X Aizpuru (3) 87
204 P150 Allegiance (13) G McCourt 3-10-12 — E Husband ★ 86
205 -2543P Surabaya (28) F Jordan 3-10-7 — A Maguire 87
206 05 Dancing Al (32) J S Moore 3-10-5 — J Magee 84
207 F0D Hey Up Mate (13) A Bailey 3-10-5 — S Wynne ★ —
208 U562 Rabamass (32) M Pipe 3-10-5 — C Maude 88
209 0 Sebastian (13) R Phillips 3-10-0 — J A McCarthy —
210 Every Penny (F55) E L James 3-10-0 — J R Kavanagh —
211 Little Blak (P142) Mrs L Jewell 3-10-0 — B Lasky —
212 5 Mandgate's Dreamer (13) B Palling 3-10-0 — S Durack 88
213 0 The Robe (28) A Carroll 3-10-0 — G Tormey —
214 6440 Vicky Jazz (28) J S Moore 3-10-0 — B Clifford ★ —

Betting: 6-4 Rabamass, 4-1 Surabaya, 6-1 Round Robin, 7-1 Silver Star, 12-1 Marsh Marigold, The Robe, 20-1 Dancing Al, Mandgate's Dreamer.

FORM GUIDE - Round Robin: Led until mistake 3 out, one pace, 2nd of 9, 17l behind Monitor's Choice, with Marsh Marigold (rec 9lb) 3rd, btn 21l, at Towcester 2m sell hdle, Sft. Silver Star: Held up, headway and ridden 5th, weakened after 3 out, tailed off, 12th of 14, well behind Heart at Stratford 2m nov hcap hdle, Gd-Sft. Surabaya: Led until after 4th, weakened quickly pulled up 4 out in race won by Sir Talbot at Chepstow 2m hdle, Gd-Sft. Rabamass: Headway to chase leader 5th, led next, headed 7th, soon outpaced, 2nd of 12, 2l behind Highbury Legend, with Dancing Al (rec 6lb) 5th, btn 8l, at Taunton 2m1f nov claim hdle, Fm.

1.50 MIDLAND HANDICAP CHASE
2m 7f 110yds £3,431 (11 declared)

301 6PP-35 Church Law (18) (D) Mrs L Taylor 11-11-10 — T J Murphy 89
302 P/12-P Debt Of Honor (17) (CD) R Lee 10-11-10 — S Durack ★ ●90
303 F153P- Titan Thai (217) N Mason 9-11-8 — R Guest 86
304 P-P350 Trail Boss (17) (D) Miss H Knight 7-11-7 — J Culloty —
305 65P-43 Robsand (17) G Balding 9-11-6 — B Clifford ★ 85
306 /03F3- Sirrus Delight (199) D Nicholson 6-11-4 — A Maguire —
307 4P3P-5 Lugs Brannigan (17) M Bradstock 8-11-3 — P Holley 88
308 452F4/ Three Saints (847) H Daly 9-11-2 — S Wynne ★ —
309 00426- Ring For Rosie (199) H Daly 7-10-9 — R Johnson 85

2.20 MOSDORFER UK 10TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP HURDLE
2m £4,988 (8 declared)

310 24214- Ragamuff (260) (BF) P Hobbs 7-10-4 — R Dunwoody 88
311 P/4F-P Primitive Penny (26) (CD) Mrs D Haine 7-10-0 — B Fenton ★ —

Betting: 7-2 Ragamuff, 5-1 Robsand, 6-1 Titan Thai, Ring For Rosie, 7-1 Debt Of Honor, 8-1 Lugs Brannigan, 10-1 Church Law.

FORM GUIDE - Titan Thai: Blundered 2nd, soon well behind pulled up at the 5th in race won by Share Options at Wetherby 3m1f hcap ch, Sft. Robsand: Led 2nd to 3rd, reminder 7th, lost touch 12th, no chance after, 3rd of 8, 26l behind Mister Chez, with Debt Of Honor (gave 4lb) 12th, pulled up last, at Towcester 3m1f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Ragamuff: Prominent, led 6th, mistakes 14th and 17th, headed 18th, weakened 2 out, 4th of 10, 18l behind Lord-Frank at Fontwell 3m2f hcap ch, Gd.

401 1034E- Toto Toscato (176) D Nicholson 4-12-4 — A Maguire 83
402 0-2128 Dictamn (9) (BF) M Pipe 4-11-12 — M A Fitzgerald ★ ●90
403 1405F- New Inn (254) (D) S Gollings 7-11-7 — S Durack 88
404 2123-1 Simons Castle (17) (D) R O'Sullivan 5-11-3 — C Llewellyn 88
405 12-624 Wesley's Lad (13) (BF) D Burchell 4-10-11 — D J Burchell 87
406 42P3-4 Once More For Luck (18) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-6 — G Lee 86
407 U1111/ Jazz (925) (D) R Hodges 10-10-5 — R Dunwoody —
408 /0322- Shepherds Rest (384) (D) S Mellor 6-10-5 — M Cotton (7) 85

Betting: 5-2 Dictamn, 7-2 Simons Castle, 4-1 Toto Toscato, 7-1 Wesley's Lad, 8-1 New Inn, Once More For Luck, 14-1 Jazz, 16-1 Shepherds Rest.

FORM GUIDE - Toto Toscato: Sixth of 7, over 4l behind Malmonji at Auteuil 2m2f hdle. Sft. Dictamn: Held up in rear, good headway 6th, with winner 8th until weakened and mistake 2 out, 6th of 10, 21l behind Mister Morose at Chepstow 2m4f hcap hdle, Gd-Sft. New Inn: Led, hit 4th, headed after 3 out, disputing 3rd and beaten when fell at the last in race won by Ellecual at Doncaster 2m hcap hdle, Sft. Simons Castle: Prominent, led 3 out, soon clear, eased flat, won by 2l from Jamaican Flight at Towcester 2m hcap hdle, Gd-Sft.

2.50 JENNY PITMAN NOVICE CHASE
2m 1f £3,106 (8 declared)

501 130/44 Bickell (24) S Gollings 6-10-12 — S Durack —
502 /43P0- Our Man Flin (266) Mrs A E Johnson 5-10-12 — R Johnson —
503 33/6- Pharstar (278) N Henderson 7-10-12 — M A Fitzgerald —
504 0U46P- Rallcouder (196) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-12 — D Leahy —
505 0063-5 Biparties (103) (D) P R Webber 7-10-12 — B Garritty —
506 3F0-4P Charming Girl (30) (D) D Sherwood 7-10-7 — J Osborne ●90
507 14102- Native Charm (195) (BF) C Morlock 6-10-7 — J A McCarthy —
508 0-030P The Lady Scores (18) S Dow 6-10-7 — W Marston —

Betting: 6-4 Charming Girl, 9-2 Rallcouder, 11-2 Native Charm, 6-1 Pharstar.

FORM GUIDE - Rallcouder: Headway 10th, weakened approaching 2 out pulled up at the last in race won by Garrettson at Towcester 2m6f nov ch, Gd-Sft. Charming Girl: Led, clear when hit 1st, headed 8th, weakened and pulled up 2 out in race won by Battery Fired at Stratford 2m1f hcap ch, Gd. Native Charm: Always prominent, led approaching 2 out, headed flat, 2nd of 17, 3l behind Afta Ahwen at Exeter 2m2f nov hdle, Gd.

3.20 STOUGHTON NOVICE HURDLE
2m £2,903 (9 declared)

601 400/ Bakaborn (660) Mrs P Sly 7-10-12 — W Marston —
602 Baraodi (F24) A Carroll 4-10-12 — T J Murphy —
603 FP1/0- Captain Stockford (273) (D) P Wegmann 11-10-12 — D Matthews —
604 Dacha (F9) Miss M Rowland 6-10-12 — B Powell —
605 U0 Delachment (17) Miss Z Davison 5-10-12 — C Maude —
606 30- Fountain Bank (283) J Spearing 5-10-12 — G Tormey —
607 321-26 L'Idefix (20) (D) T George 6-10-12 — T Jenks ●90
608 13- Native Speaker (280) (D) P R Webber 5-10-12 — J Osborne —
609 4065- Allmerjam (384) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-7 — Mr R Farrelst (7) 86

Betting: 6-4 Native Speaker, 11-4 Baraodi, 4-1 L'Idefix, 12-1 Dacha, Fountain Bank.

FORM GUIDE - Baraodi: Held up, headway 7f out, effort over 2f out, challenged 1f out, not quicken, 2nd of 16, 13l behind Thornby Park at Doncaster 1m7f hcap. Gd. Dacha: Mid-division, driven along and behind final 4f, tailed off, last of 23, well behind Yavana's Pace at Doncaster 1m4f hcap, Sft. L'Idefix: Prominent, led 8th until next, soon weakened, 6th of 16, 19l behind Lord Noelie at Stratford 2m6f nov hdle, Gd. Native Speaker: Close up, led 2f out to 1f out, kept on well, 3rd of 18, 3l behind Native Upmanship at Punchestown 2m NH Flat, Hvy.

3.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £2,820 (4 declared)

1 24311/ Total Joy (633) (D) C Mann 7-11-10 — C Rafter (7) —
2 245-U3 World Express (26) (D) B Millman 8-11-7 — D Salter (3) ●90
3 21-2 Molsum (11) (C) (BF) Mrs P Sly 5-11-5 — W Marston 89
4 2333-6 Grate Times (13) J Spearing 4-10-9 — R Johnson ★ 87

Betting: 11-8 World Express, 5-2 Molsum, 3-1 Grate Times, 13-2 Total Joy.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.00	Deac's Pet	Deal's Pet
1.30	Baby Spice	Baby Spice
2.00	Seven Springs	Bridgend Blue
2.30	Demolition Joe	Juwwi
3.00	Pip's Brave	Pip's Brave
3.30	Danzino (nap)	Diamond White
4.00	Salty Behaviour	Napoleon's Return
4.30	Operatic	Il Principe

All-weather, Fibresand track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 380yds. Sharp bends.
Going: Standard. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: No advantage.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 1.00 Warring Kingdom. **Visored:** 2.30 Blue Kite.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J,Jumps.

1.00 PEVERIL DECORATORS LTD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 1) 2YO
6f £2,390 (11 declared)

1 (1) 404 Deac's Pet (28) M Johnston 9-0 — J Fanning ●90
2 (5) Dovedon Times H Akbary 9-0 — M Day —
3 (7) 032200 Golden Bill (16) I Semple 9-0 — R Lappin 87
4 (6) 00 Red Apollo (16) A Stewart 9-0 — T G McLaughlin 83
5 (3) 000 State Wind (44) N Littmoden 9-0 — M Wigham 84
6 (9) 0 Warring Kingdom (27) John Berry 9-0 — Declan O'Shea ★ 82
7 (4) Whatsitsname J Eyre 9-0 — D Pears —
8 (8) 0 Blizzard (11) B Smart 8-9 — R Perham 86
9 (11) 020334 Crystal Lass (16) J Balding 8-9 — J Edmunds ★ 89
10 (10) 0 Debbie's Bupe (158) K Mahdi 8-9 — J Quinn 84
11 (2) 535650 Seren Teg (41) B Palling 8-9 — G Faulkner (3) 86

Betting: 4-1 Deac's Pet, Crystal Lass, 5-1 Golden Bill, 7-1 Whatsitsname, Blizzard, Seren Teg, 8-1 Red Apollo, State Wind.

1.30 STOURBRIDGE SELLING STAKES (DIV 1)
7f £2,176 (12 declared)

1 (8) 350200 Castle Ashby Jack (30) (D) P Howling 4-9-3 — J Quinn 83
2 (9) 356010 Rafley Spinney (21) (D) J Cullinan 4-9-3 — J D Smith (3) 86
3 (2) 200000 Davis Rock (24) (C) (D) W Muir 4-8-12 — T Sprake 86
4 (1) 566555 Eastleigh (113) R Hollinshead 9-8-12 — Lisa Watson (7) 84
5 (3) 600000 Jubeat John (17) (D) E Alston 6-8-12 — L Charnock ★ 82
6 (6) 306646 Little Ibnr (280) (CD) P Evans 7-8-12 — Dane O'Neill 86
7 (11) 260000 Mellagh Hill Lad (48) (C) N Littmoden 5-8-12 — T G McLaughlin 80
8 (4) -84230 Pegasus Bay (J32) (D) D Cantillon 7-8-12 — G Carter 86
9 (12) 000501 Baby Spice (30) (CD) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-11 — A Culhane ●90
10 (7) 300000 Toon (56) C Fairhurst 3-8-11 — Dean McKeown ★ 79
11 (10) 24403- Sun Fairy (J58) D Burchell 4-8-7 — S Drowne 89
12 (5) -00000 Downclose Duchess (11) P Eccles 3-8-6 — G Faulkner (3) 81

Betting: 3-1 Baby Spice, 5-1 Rafley Spinney, Davis Rock, 8-1 Pegasus Bay, 10-1 Castle Ashby Jack, Jubeat John, Little Ibnr, Sun Fairy.

2.00 PEVERIL DECORATORS LTD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2) 2YO
6f £2,390 (11 declared)

1 (4) 0650 Bridgend Blue (58) M Bell 9-0 — M Fenton ●90
2 (6) 00 Loban (11) Miss Z Davison 9-0 — T Sprake 84
3 (5) Peruvian Star N Littmoden 9-0 — T G McLaughlin —
4 (11) 02 Seven Springs (28) R Hollinshead 9-0 — W Ryan 89
5 (3) 00 Wiabab (17) A Newcombe 9-0 — D Griffiths (3) 83
6 (2) B Grade The Second Miss J Craze 8-9 — T Williams —
7 (10) Ferocity M Jarvis 8-9 — J Quinn —
8 (1) 0 Freya (10) A Stewart 8-9 — G Carter 85
9 (7) 46303 Harquebusier (47) J Pearce 8-9 — G Bardwell 87
10 (8) 0 Lady Oddjob (16) K McAuliffe 8-9 — A Culhane 82
11 (9) 0 Tricks (68) Lord Huntingdon 8-9 — Dane O'Neill 83

Betting: 4-1 Bridgend Blue, 5-1 Seven Springs, 11-2 Ferocity, Harquebusier, 7-1 Peruvian Star, Freya, Tricks.

2.30 GAILEY HANDICAP
6f £3,550 (13 declared)

1 (8) 400100 First Maite (14) (C) (D) S Bowring 5-10-0 — C Teague (3) ★ 85
2 (7) 604000 Caramba (27) (CD) J Eyre 3-10-0 — R FitzPatrick (6) 83
3 (10) 00-002 Twice As Sharp (14) (D) P Harris 6-10-0 — A Culhane 87
4 (11) -011P0 Double-O (10) (CD) W Jarvis 4-10-0 — G Carter 85
5 (13) 144000 Ursa Major (30) (D) C Allen 4-9-11 — J Weaver 82
6 (4) 001110 Quiet Venture (46) I Semple 4-9-10 — R Lappin 87
7 (1) 000110 Shadi (18) (CD) D Nicholls 5-9-9 — Alex Greaves 86
8 (6) 062024 Juwwi (16) (C) (D) (BF) J Bradley 4-9-8 — C Carver (7) ●90
9 (12) 280040 Jeffrey Anotherred (14) (D) M Dods 4-9-6 — F Lynch 85
10 (3) 220400 Blue Kite (38) (C) N Littmoden 3-9-4 — J Quinn ★ 84
11 (9) 305500 Tangerine Flyer (88) P Evans 3-9-4 — C Cogan (7) 82
12 (2) 000026 Demolition Jo (9) (D) P Evans 3-9-2 — F Norton ★ 88
13 (5) 563046 Ziggy's Dancer (32) (CD) E Alston 7-9-1 — L Charnock 89

Betting: 3-1 Ziggy's Dancer, 9-2 Demolition Jo, 11-2 Juwwi, 13-2 Quiet Venture, 8-1 Twice As Sharp, Double-O, 10-1 Shadi, Jeffrey Anotherred.

3.00 MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO
1m 1f 79yds £2,180 (8 declared)

1 (8) 00 Dobsonsd Secret (9) P Evans 8-11 — F Norton 82
2 (5) 000033 Alana's Cavalier (26) R Hollinshead 8-8 — W Ryan 86
3 (7) 0 Charter Flight (27) A Newcombe 8-8 — J Quinn 84
4 (3) 6 Pip's Brave (142) M Polglase 8-5 — Dean McKeown ●90
5 (4) 000 Shady Deal (38) M Usher 8-5 — T Sprake 88
6 (2) 040 Blue Peru (61) B Smart 8-0 — A Nicholls (5) 85
7 (6) 46663 Charlielpageo's (38) W G M Turner 8-0 — P Fitzsimons (7) 88
8 (1) 000 Jellybean (25) Miss G Kelleway 8-0 — S Drowne 82

Betting: 5-2 Pip's Brave, 3-1 Shady Deal, 7-2 Jellybean, 9-2 Alana's Cavalier, 11-2 Charlielpageo's, 8-1 Blue Peru, 16-1 Charter Flight, 33-1 Dobsonsd Secret.

3.30 49'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE & TRIFECTA)
1m 100yds £7,620 (13 declared)

1 (12) 105331 Diamond White (10) K Wingrove 3-10-3 — R Price ●90
2 (3) -00140 Peartree House (15) (D) W Muir 4-10-0 — Dane O'Neill 85
3 (9) 602100 Celestial Key (16) (D) M Johnston 8-9-11 — J Fanning 85
4 (1) 100000 Danzino (60) (C) (D) Mrs N Macauley 3-9-11 — P McCabe ★ 82
5 (10) 010120 Pass The Rest (88) (CD) D Shaw 3-9-9 — A Culhane 88
6 (5) -40142 Sharp Rebuff (33) (D) (BF) P Makin 7-9-9 — A Clark 88
7 (13) 0/0-60 Migwar (16) N Littmoden 5-9-9 — J Quinn 84
8 (6) 221123 Italian Symphony (12) (C) P Evans 4-9-9 — C Cogan (7) ★ 88
9 (8) 663430 Pas De Memoires (30) (C) K Burke 3-9-7 — Dean McKeown 87
10 (11) -12300 Zinald (118) (D) J Toller 4-9-4 — G Carter 84
11 (3) 354215 Be Warned (16) (C) (D) (BF) J Pearce 7-9-4 — M Wigham ★ 85
12 (7) 140010 Suellach (23) (CD) R Hollinshead 5-9-2 — W Ryan 83
13 (4) 532400 China Castle (44) (CD) P Haslam 5-9-0 — M Tebbutt 82

Best early-morning prices: 9-2 Be Warned (general), 6-1 Diamond White (H), 8-1 Italian Symphony (C), 9-1 Pass The Rest (C, T), Pas de Memoires (C), 10-1 Celestial Key (H, T), 12-1 Suellach (C), Peartree House (L), Sharp Rebuff (L), 14-1 Zinald (C, L), 16-1 Danzino (C, T), 20-1 China Castle (L), 33-1 Migwar (H, T).
● T (Tote); C (Coral); H (Hill's); L (Ladbrokes)

4.00 STOURBRIDGE SELLING STAKES (DIV 2)
7f £2,176 (12 declared)

1 (11) 510140 Salty Behaviour (44) (D) R Hannon 4-9-3 — Dane O'Neill 88
2 (10) 100055 Kelly (97) (BF) A Bailey 3-9-2 — J Weaver 86
3 (7) 303440 C-Harry (44) (CD) R Hollinshead 4-8-12 — W Ryan 85
4 (9) 385000 Lancashire Legend (143) (D) N Littmoden 5-8-12 — T G McLaughlin 83
5 (8) -64032 Napoleon's Return (12) (D) J Eyre 5-8-12 — L Charnock ●90
6 (12) 125040 Principal Boy (193) (D) Miss J Craze 5-8-12 — T Williams 86
7 (6) 005004 Ramsey Hope (8) (C) C Fairhurst 5-8-12 — Dean McKeown ★ 82
8 (2) 636500 Super Park (197) J Pearce 6-8-12 — G Bardwell 83
9 (3) 002200 Zahran (26) (D) J Bradley 7-8-12 — C Carver (7) 84
10 (3) 300004 Arbenig (27) (C) (D) B Palling 3-8-11 — G Faulkner (3) 82
11 (1) 000003 Caprisea (21) J L Harris 3-8-6 — R Winston (3) 85
12 (4) 40000- Mercury Falling (375) D Arbuthnot 3-8-6 — R Price 82

Betting: 7-2 Salty Behaviour, 6-1 Napoleon's Return, 7-1 Ramsey Hope, Arbenig, Caprisea, 8-1 Lancashire Legend, Principal Boy.

4.30 BRIDGTOWN HANDICAP
1m 6f 166yds £2,927 (12 declared)

1 (3) 005103 Il Principe (12) John Berry 4-9-11 — M Fenton ★ ●90
2 (8) 004005 Arctic Thunder (44) B Palling 7-9-10 — G Faulkner (3) 85
3 (11) 350012 Isabella Gonzaga (21) (C) R Cowell 4-9-6 — J Weaver 89
4 (4) 301222 Operatic (98) (CD) P Evans 3-9-3 — F Norton ★ 87
5 (6) 250065 Back Row (34) J Hetherton 4-9-2 — T Sprake 86
6 (1) 250064 Coleridge (55) (D) J Sheehan 10-9-1 — J Wilson (7) ★ 86
7 (12) 4363-3 Dancing Cavalier (22) (D) R Hollinshead 5-9-0 — P M Quinn (7) 87
8 (9) 0060 Crow's Nest (38) Lord Huntingdon 3-9-0 — W Ryan 84
9 (10) 000204 Paradise Navy (30) (D) C Egerton 9-8-12 — Sophie Mitchell ★ 85
10 (2) 241113 Muscaloo (44) (BF) P Haslam 3-8-11 — L Charnock 88
11 (7) 4000 Silver Castor (30) P Harris 3-8-11 — A Culhane 81
12 (5) 301002 Perhaps Mission (53) J Pearce 4-8-2 — R Price ★ 85

Betting: 7-2 Il Principe, 4-1 Isabella Gonzaga, 5-1 Operatic, 6-1 Muscaloo.

Results

CHELTENHAM

1.10 (2m 5f Hdle): 1, ARCTIC CAMPER, N Williamson (6-5 fav); **2, Door To Door** (7-2); **3, Tara-Brogan** (11-1). 14 ran 2½, ¾. (Miss Venetia Williams) Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.50, £2.20. Dual F: £3.60. CSF: £4.26. NR: Loggay.

1.40 (2m 5f Hdle): 1, LADY REBECCA, S Kelly (5-2 fav); **2, Dromhale Lady** (25-1); **3, Melody Maid** (11-1). 13 ran 7, 1½. (Miss Venetia Williams) Tote: £3.00; £1.80, £6.20, £3.10. Dual F: £141.90. CSF: £64.99. Tricast: £924.89. NR: Cherrymore, Country Beau, Mimosa.

2.15 (2m Ch): 1, MISTER MOROSE, C Llewellyn (6-2 fav); **2, Dines** (4-1); **3, Desert Mountain** (11-4). 5 ran 2½, 3. (N Twiston-Davies) Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £2.10. Dual F: £7.50. CSF: £11.08.

2.50 (2m 110yds Hdle): 1, GREY SHOT, J Osborne (11-4 fav); **2, Tyrolean Dream** (16-1); **3, Fataliste** (33-1); **4, Decoupage** (7-1). 16 ran 2, 3, ¾. (I Balding) Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £2.30, £12.70, £2.00. Dual F: £37.50. CSF: £44.79. Tricast: £1,159.07. Trifecta: £3,566.60.

3.25 (3m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, CAPENWRAY, A P McCoy (5-4 fav); **2, Tight Fist** (33-1); **3, The Outback Way** (12-1). 10 ran 2½, 2½. (J King) Tote: £2.30; £1.70, £8.90, £3.10. Dual F: £122.60. CSF: £50.65. Tricast: £363.11. NR: Linden's Lotto.

4.00 (2m 110yds Flat): 1, SCARLET EMPEROR, D Leahy (20-1); **2, Aelsce** (20-1); **3, Russell Road** (16-1). 5-2 fav Behamore. 18 ran 6, 1½. (Mrs J Pitman) Tote: £42.90; £6.70, £5.80, £3.80. Dual F: £477.70. CSF: £353.41. NR: Carrington House, Castlah Keith.

JACKPOT: Not won. £7,464.64 carried forward to Leicester.
PLACEPOT: £820.20. **QUADPOT:** £182.30.

AYR

12.30 (2m Hdle): 1, EASTERN PROJECT, B Harding (9-1); **2, Crazy Horse** (4-5 fav); **3, Seebrook Lad** (8-1). 14 ran 2½, 3. (M Hammond) Tote: £13.30; £2.10, £1.20, £1.90. Dual F: £9.20. CSF: £18.49.

1.00 (2m Ch): 1, SWEEP GENTLY, S Durack (9-2); **2, Ice At The Top** (16-1); **3, Cavalier d'Or** (4-1). 4-5 fav Foundry Lane. 8 ran 3½, ¾. (Mrs S Smith) Tote: £6.10; £1.60, £2.40, £1.10. Dual F: £24.30. CSF: £46.72.

1.30 (2m 6f Hdle): 1, COPE WITH REALITY, R McGrath (11-4); **2, Quick March** (5-2 fav); **3, Sir Bob** (14-1). 15 ran Nk, 21. (J O'Neill) Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.60, £4.00. Dual F: £5.70. CSF: £9.88.

2.05 (2m Ch): 1, TOM BRODIE, C McCormack (5-1); **2, Parish** (16-1); **3, Montrave** (20-1). 7-4 fav Welsh March. 7 ran 1½, 15. (J Howard Johnson) Tote: £3.90; £2.90, £3.30. Dual F: £28.90. CSF: £54.34.

2.40 (3m 4f Hdle): 1, COTTSTOWN BOY, Mr M Bradburne (12-1); **2, Globe Runner** (5-2); **3, Apollo's Daughter** (20-1). 9-4 fav Kilbus King. 7 ran ¾, 20. (S Bradburne) Tote: £18.80; £4.20, £1.80. Dual F: £27.20. CSF: £38.08.

3.15 (3m 5f 110yds Ch): 1, SCOTIA NOSTRA, R McGrath (11-2); **2, Phar Echo** (3-1); **3, Fils de Cresson** (10-1). 11-4 fav Out By Night. 10 ran 3½, 11. (J O'Neill) Tote: £6.10; £2.00, £1.90, £3.10. DF: £12.00. CSF: £20.58. Tricast: £147.46. NR: Silver Pearl.

3.50 (2m Flat): 1, LORD OF THE SKY, R Supple (7-1); **2, Lingdale Lad** (5-1); **3, Stop The Gossip** (14-1). 4-1 fav Parlance Bay. 15 ran 1½, 5. (L Lungo) Tote: £5.50; £2.10, £2.90, £5.30. DF: £9.70. CSF: £39.08.
PLACEPOT: £180.10. **QUADPOT:** £60.60.

TOWCESTER

12.15 (2m 5f Hdle): 1, COME ON ELLISH, B Grattan (7-2); **2, Obliterate** (9-4 fav); **3, Another Chancer** (9-2). 10 ran 2, 6. (John R Upson) Tote: £5.20; £1.40, £1.30, £1.40. Dual F: £8.10. CSF: £11.41.

12.45 (3m 1f Ch): 1, WOODLANDS BEAU, A Thornton (5-2); **2, Jocks Cross** (9-4 fav); **3, Copper Coil** (5-1). 9 ran ¾, 26. (R Alner) Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £1.20, £2.70. Dual F: £4.80. CSF: £8.77.

1.20 (2m Hdle): 1, STEWARTS PRIDE, C Maude (11-8); **2, Young Thruster** (5-4 fav); **3, Knightsbridge Belt** (7-2). 7 ran 6, dist. (S Brookshaw) Tote: £2.40; £1.90, £1.10. Dual F: £1.70. CSF: £3.39.

1.50 (3m 1f Ch): 1, CLEVER REMARK, C Maude (3-1); **2, Young Kenny** (7-4 fav); **3, Freddie Muck** (3-1). 6 ran 8, 5. (J Old) Tote: £3.70; £2.00, £1.70. Dual F: £4.40. CSF: £8.57.

2.25 (2m Hdle): 1, COULTHARD, W Marston (11-8 fav); **2, Monica's Choice** (7-2); **3, Another Night** (4-1). 6 ran 6, 7. (Mrs P Sly) Tote: £2.20; £1.80, £1.70. Dual F: £3.20. CSF: £6.38.

3.00 (2m 110yds Ch): 1, MR CONDUCTOR, R Widger (5-2 co-fav); **2, John Dream** (5-2 co-fav); **3, Tim Soldier** (16-1). 5-2 co-fav River Leven. 6 ran 17, 1½. (R Alner) Tote: £2.90; £1.50, £1.70. Dual F: £2.30. CSF: £8.64.

3.35 (2m 5f): 1, SNOWJOSHY, A Thornton (2-1); **2, Rockcliffe Gossip** (4-7 fav); **3, Prussian Steel** (7-1). 9 ran 13, 8. (Mrs J Pitman) Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £1.10, £1.90. Dual Forecast: £1.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £3.65.
PLACEPOT: £8.30.
QUADPOT: £4.50

KEEPING TRACK
09064 700 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
LEICESTER	141	151
PLUMPTON	142	152
WOLVERHAMPTON	143	153
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	09064 700 140	
ALL COURSES RESULTS	09064 700 150	

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Rugby Union

Premiership One
Wasps 45
Leicester 17

Mayfair effect takes toll on Tigers

Hugh Godwin

LEICESTER's leadership of Premiership One was undermined in the mean streets of Shepherd's Bush, but this predictable defeat had its roots in well-heeled Mayfair. The Tigers' teeth were drawn by the absence of their record-breaking England octet and seven other injured players, the Mayfair Agreement's stipulation that the Premiership continue through these World Cup weekends being to their cost.

Wasps were themselves missing four leading lights, but with the walking Belisha beacon Trevor Leota snaffling two of their six tries, they illuminated a grey afternoon. Leota's garish hairdo stood out as he burrowed through for a try in each half, both from short-range line-outs, a tactic copied by his team-mate Paul Volley for a third after 49 minutes.

How those scores must have made the Leicester coach Dean Richards wince. His depleted side offered all they could but it was not enough.

Wasps cheekily made entrance available at a cut-price £5 to any Richmond or Harlequins supporters left bereft by the postponement of their teams' meeting at Reading. How many actually took up the offer was unclear. Certainly Leicester's travelling support was understandably diminished.

Determined to make the most of their opportunity, Wasps set to work with a will. Any Leicester body lying over the ball was severely slippered, with the entirely correct compliance of the referee Brian Campsall, and Wasps built an 11-point lead in a brutal opening quarter.

Leicester heeded the lesson after two penalties kicked by Kenny Logan and a try at the corner from Shane Roiser, and the spectacle benefited as a result. The rugby was high octane even if some of the principals had been dragged from the back of the grid. As at Wembley the day before, we also had a male streaker, but at least this one had the decency to be indecent during the half-time interval.

Leicester's star waxed briefly when the Irish full-back Geordan Murphy cut through for a try after 21 minutes but their opponents were far more adept at recycling the ball.

There was a controversial try for the Leicester No. 8 Paul Gustard which gave them some hope at 26–17 in the third quarter. But Leota's second try rang the alarm bells and a thoroughly uncharacteristic lack of Leicester defence on the short side of a scrum let in Logan for the killer.

Volley rounded things off when he battered through a dispirited defence.

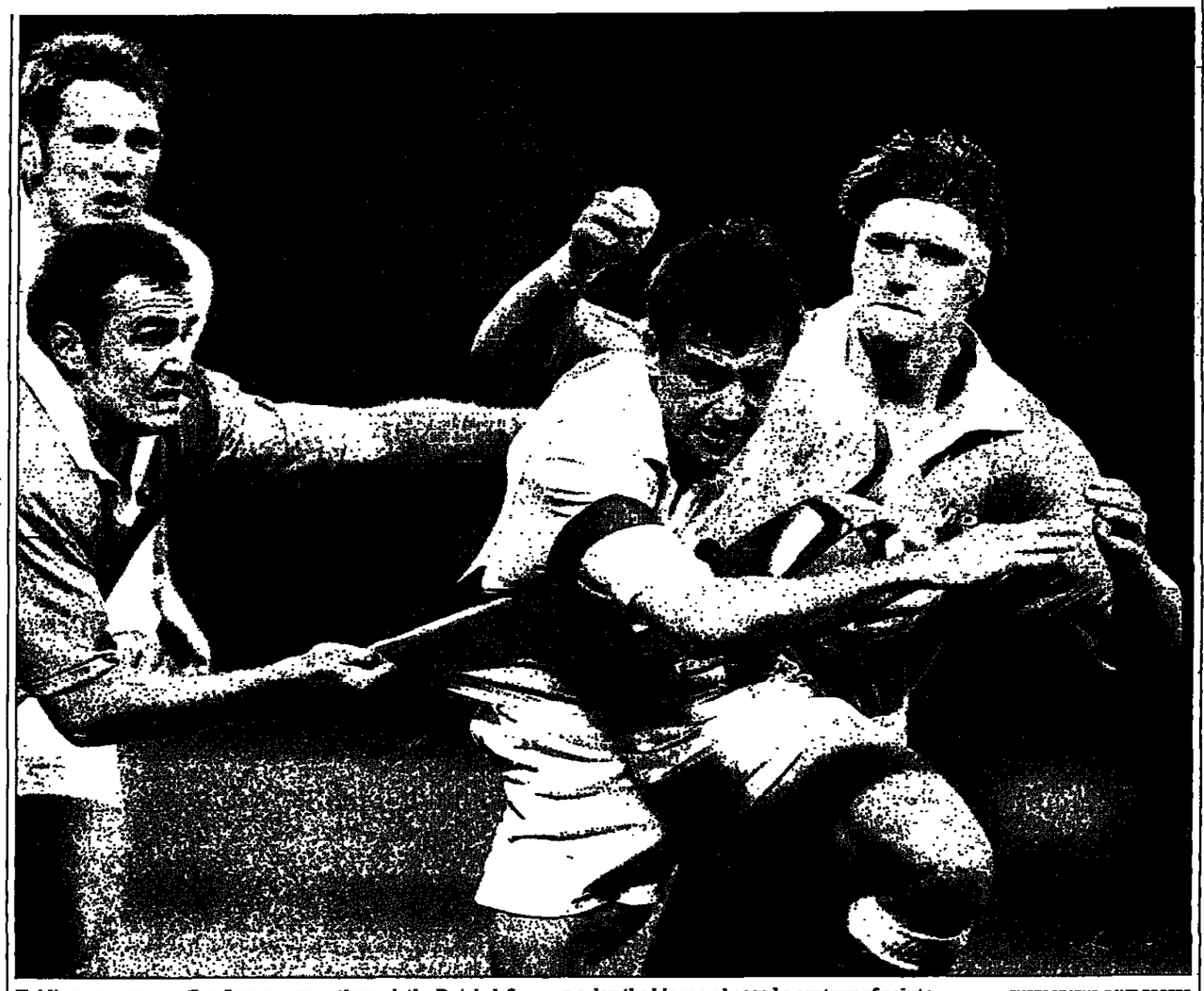
● With half their regular team on international duty, Saracens grabbed two vital league points by defeating Bedford 20–25. Saracens trailed 10–6 at the break but scored three tries in 15 minutes through Troy Coker, his fellow Australian Wayne De Jonge and Richard Wallace.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Roiser, Leota 2, Volley 2. Logan. **Conversions:** Logan 3 **Penalties:** Logan 3 **Leicester: Tries:** Murphy, Gustard **Conversions:** Stransky 2 **Penalty:** Stransky

Wasps: Dillon, Roiser, Greenstock, Scrase, Logan, Kimi Gamarnall Molloy (Black, 69min), Leota (Mclear 74), Dunston, Worsley (capt) Shaw (Reed, 72), Rollitt, Volley, Worsley

Leicester: Murphy, Lloyd, Overend, Stuart, Horak Stransky (capt) Hamilton, Jelley, Wisl, Toews (Frostwater, 72), Liebich, Addison (Smith, 74), Wingham, Lewis, Gustard

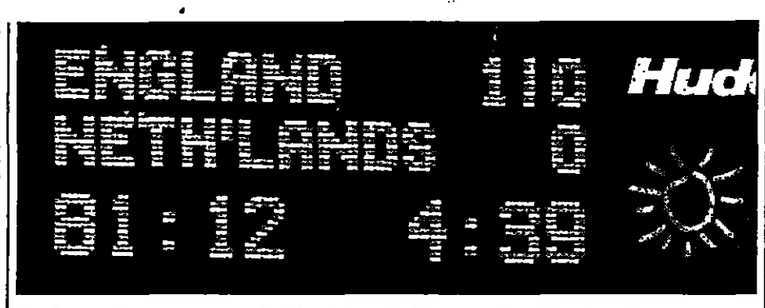
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).



Holding company . . . Dan Luger powers through the Dutch defence on a day the big guns bagged a century of points PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID ROGERS

World Cup, European Qualifying Zone, Pool Two: England 110 Netherlands 0

Back spin sets up Grayson



Robert Armstrong in Huddersfield on a day England's masters handed out a harsh lesson to their aspiring Dutch pupils

ENGLAND, mindful of the major hurdles round the corner, took only passing satisfaction from their biggest international win over a motley collection of carpenters, policemen, students and computer consultants in their qualifier at the McAlpine Stadium.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, will not dwell long on the record 16 tries that put the Netherlands to the sword as he considers his options for next Sunday's game against a dangerous-looking Italian side at the same Huddersfield venue.

In the context of the forthcoming Tests against Australia and South Africa, England's free-wheeling performance, topped up by Paul Grayson's near-faultless goalkicking, ranks merely as a brisk practice run against token defenders who knew their best was never going to be good enough.

While it was pleasing to see England moving the ball sweetly through hands like French backs on a good day, it will be more relevant to discover whether they falter under pressure against the super-fit, shrewdly organised Italians.

As Geoff Old, the Netherlands coach, acknowledged, Woodward's well-motivated professionals were quick, clinical and ruthless, so the scoreboard kept ticking over, apart from a 15-minute spell late in the first half.

England had no interest in crushing the Dutch up front, though they could easily have done so. Instead the back-row forwards, particularly Neil Back, released the ball in a twinkling and mostly let the three-quarters show their paces.

It was no surprise to see Jeremy Guscott and the ubiquitous Back score four tries each which still left them short of Rory Underwood's record of five in a single Test.

Grayson's 15 conversions, many from the touchline, did earn him the record points total for an Englishman in an international. England's 110 points also comfortably topped the previous highest score of 60, against Wales, Canada and Japan.

Significantly Back the provider was just as chuffed by the nought against the Netherlands, who failed with their only penalty attempt. "The main thing is we have kept their points down to zero," he said. "We've been working a lot on our defence." He, of course, missed the summer tour of the southern hemisphere, when England were on the wrong end of some severe thrashings.

For some in the 9,000 crowd it was their first live sighting of Guscott: each of his imperious scores took some of the sting out of the £20 admission, a price which probably cut the gate by a third. Woodward, never short of flair in his playing days, said: "Jerry running like he did is one of the great sights of sport."

The threat of serious injury in this physical mismatch was averted by the common sense of the England forwards, who engaged in the scrums without trying to power the Dutch off their own ball. That England won only 14 of the 26 scrums was chivalrous given they weighed more than a stone per player. Roger Duhau, the French referee, was a model of patience each time the Dutch front row wilfully collapsed.

Elsewhere Martin Corry, the No. 8 who replaced the injured Lawrence Dallaglio, punched great holes in the Dutch midfield with his low athletic driving; Dan Luger scored on his Test debut as well as creating a wonderful try for Guscott; Martin Johnson, the captain, patrolled the open spaces like a lion on the prowl; and there was no obvious difference in quality between Matt Perry and his full-back substitute Nick Beal, who enjoyed his frisky final half-hour.

Grayson, too, showed a genuine desire to spring his backs even when given scrappy ball. Woodward said: "I was delighted with the way Paul controlled the game; he is our big weapon. His goal-kicking too has been fantastic this season." Overall Grayson gave 31 passes and made four breaks, surely another record for the England No. 10.

As Old remarked ruefully, "England came looking for 100 points and they got them without too much trouble. They closed the game down and opened it up at will."

On the other hand, England showed a surprising tendency to lose the ball in contact, which will earn the forwards some punishment from their coach John Mitchell in this week's training sessions.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Back 4, penalty try, Greenwood, Guscott 4, Cockerill, Corry, Dawson, Luger, Healey, Beal. **Conversions:** Grayson 15.

ENGLAND: Perry (Bath; Beal, Northampton, 58min); Luger (Harlequins), Greenwood (Leicester), Guscott (Bath), Healey (Leicester); Grayson (Northampton), Dawson (Northampton); Leonard (Harlequins), Cockerill (Leicester), Garforth (Leicester); Rowntree, Leicester, 56), Johnson (Leicester, capt), Archer (Newcastle; Rodber, Northampton, 56), Clarke (Richmond; Hill, Saracens, 56), Back (Leicester), Corry (Leicester).

NETHERLANDS: Webbers; Winkels, Van der Walle, Evers, Vigneron; Verweort (Neumeker, 65), Meeuse (capt; Ligt, 72); Van der Esch (Brat, 52), Seybel, Philippo, Faas, Donkers, Van der Ven, Helten, Elsara.

Referee: R Duhau (France).

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Referee: R Duhau (France).

Premiership One: Newcastle 45 Northampton 35

Falcons fly back home to rule the roost

Michael Prestage

NEWCASTLE returned to Kingston Park yesterday after their brief flirtation with Gateshead and recorded a 23rd consecutive win there, a remarkable sequence dating back to February, 1996.

Both sides were missing half a dozen regulars through international call-ups or injury but there were no complaints from either coach or the crowd. Newcastle had Saints reeling from the start with what their coach Rob Andrew praised as the best interplay between his backs and forwards this season.

Jonny Wilkinson for Newcastle and his opposite number Alastair Hepher swapped penalties early and in the sixth minute the Falcons' dynamic opening was rewarded when Gary Armstrong found Wilkinson and the fly-half went through for the try.

The lead was extended after 13 minutes when Armstrong's sniping run from a maul took him over the line.

Pat Lam was making his return to Newcastle after a summer move and when he was tackled late by his former boss Rob Andrew the two ended up brawling on the floor with Armstrong joining in. The referee spoke to all three. Andrew's uncharacteristic involvement in argybargy was punished when the prop Garry Pagel collected a try from the ensuing penalty. Saints kicked to touch and from a line-out Jason Chandler caught, his second-row partner Richard Metcalfe drove through and Pagel did the rest. The Falcons, though, had the last word of the half when Inga Tuigamala proceeded to charge through a posse of defenders that included his fellow Samoan Lam.

Two tries in the opening five minutes of the second period sealed it for Newcastle. A devastating break by Tuigamala set up Peter Walton for the first. And when Andy Blyth fumbled a pass, it began a passage of play which ended with Richard Arnold's score.

Just after the hour Wilkinson notched up his 25th point of the afternoon when he converted his own try.

Saints managed late scores through Metcalfe, Dominic Malone and Pagel after Armstrong had been sin-binned in the 70th minute for for handling the ball in a ruck. But it was too little, too late.

● Wendell Sailor scored five tries yesterday as Leeds crushed Rugby 68–7 in their Tetley's Bitter Cup third-round match at Webb Ellis Road to equal the Leeds club record for tries in a game.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Wilkinson 2, Armstrong, Tuigamala, Walton, Arnold. **Conversions:** Wilkinson 6. **Penalty:** Wilkinson. **Northampton: Tries:** Pagel 2, Metcalfe, Malone. **Conversions:** Hepher 3. **Penalties:** Hepher 3.

Newcastle: Legg; Naylor, Shaw, Andrew (capt), Tuigamala; Wilkinson, Armstrong; Peel, Horton (Frankland, 76min), Hunter Beattie, Weir, O'Neill, Arnold, Walton (Chilton, 71; Vyvyan, 80).

Northampton: Blyth; Moir, Dantiacq, Allen, Sleightholme; Hepher, Malone; Pagel, Johnson, Hynes (Volland, 37), Metcalfe, Chandler (Phillips, 70), MacKinnon (Foale, 60), Lam (capt), Seely.

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).

Rugby League

Third Test: Gt Britain 23 New Zealand 23

Smith keeps Lions' pride with his first drop goal

Andy Wilson

GREAT BRITAIN's 23-23 draw against New Zealand on Saturday night avoided a whitewash and will have given them heart ahead of the 2000 World Cup.

Neil Tunnicliffe, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, had compared the background to the third Test to that of the third in Sydney 10 years ago when an injury-hit Great Britain, written off after a 34–14 mauling by Australia in Brisbane, achieved a stunning 26–12 success. That victory marked the start of seven years of international credibility.

Midway through the second half at Watford the Lions were staring at a repeat of the second Test capitulation at Bolton. The wonderfully talented Kiwis tore an eight-point half-time deficit to shreds with three dazzling tries for the Paul brothers.

But this time Great Britain, led by their half-backs Sean Long and Tony Smith, and bolstered by the impressive debutant hooker Terry Newton, hung in and fought back.

Long's individual try, the highlight of a bubbly first starting appearance, cut the deficit to 22–16 and even after Stacey Jones's drop goal had given New Zealand extra breathing space, Great Britain forged a 78th-minute try from Smith following good work by Long, Keith Senior and Francis Cummins. Then they snatched the draw through Smith's first-ever drop goal from the last kick of the game.

"Great Britain have got a side they can build on for the World Cup," said New Zealand's generous coach Frank Endacott. "They came back strong and they've got some good players in Newlove, Morley and Denis Betts. They'll be cherry ripe for the World Cup." So will New Zealand, whose governing body will surely offer Endacott a full-time position.

The forward nucleus of this team — Stephen Kearney, Jarrod McCracken and the captain Quentin Pongia — each have at least two more years in them and Henry and Robbie Paul have come of age on the international stage. Jones, a runaway Man of the Series, may already be the best scrum-half in the world at the age of 22.

An attendance of 13,278 was encouraging on a filthy night with the series already lost, and can only strengthen Peter Deakin's hand in attempting to persuade his Saracens owner Nigel Wray to apply for a Watford Super League franchise next year.

Andy Goodway, the relieved Great Britain coach, will now work with Tunnicliffe and the RFL's technical director Joe Lydon to squeeze some decent preparation for next year's tri-series into a season already over-congested by the Super League clubs' expansion to 30 rounds.

"For all the inexperience in the side, they have performed magnificently over the past three weeks," said Goodway. "But we're only eight months into a three-year job. We feel there is a lot more to come."

● Gateshead Thunder will make their Super League debut at home to Leeds Rhinos at home on March 7. The match will bring Kath Hetherington, Gateshead's chairwoman, up against her husband Gary, chief executive at Leeds.

GREAT BRITAIN (Wigan unless stated): Radlinski; Robinson, Connolly, Senior (Sheffield), Cummins (Leeds); Long (St Helens), Smith (Castleford), Newlove (Leeds), Laughton (Sheffield), Joynt (St Helens), Southorpe (St Helens), Farrell (capt). **Substitutes:** Gibson, Forshaw (Bradford), Naughton, Feany (Leeds).

NEW ZEALAND (Auckland Warriors unless stated): Barnett (Sydney City); Hoppe, K Iro (St Helens), Witki (Canberra), Nathan (Canterbury); H Paul (Bradford), Jones; Vagana, Era, Pongia (capt), McCracken (Parramatta), Kearney, Swane. **Substitutes:** N Paul (Bradford), Smith (Illawarra), Puletua (Penrith), Cayless Parramatta.

Referee: S Harrigan (Australia).

Golf

Westwood wins sixth of season

LEE Westwood yesterday captured the Taiheiyo Masters title in Gotemba, Japan, to become the first player to win the tournament three years running. The Briton, for whom it was a sixth title of the season and the 12th of his career, won by two shots from Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki, who shot a best-of-the-day five-under 67 for a 13-under total of 275.

Andrew Coltart finished eight shots behind Westwood, who banked around £105,000 for his pains, but one stroke ahead of the Britons David Howell and Darren Clarke.

Fiji's Vijay Singh yesterday tied the Mission Hills course record in Shenzen, China, where he hit a 10-under-par 62 for a two-shot win over Jesper Parnevik in the Johnnie Walker Super Tour event.

The Fijian finished with a 19-under-par 269 after earlier rounds of 70 at the Palm Resort in Malaysia, 66 at the Thai Country Club in Bangkok, and 71 at the Ta Shee course in Taipei, Taiwan.

● Greg Norman and Steve Elkington, nine-under, were a shot off the leaders Davis Love III and Brad Faxon after the best-ball round of the Shark Shootout at the Sherwood Country Club in California.

Ice Hockey

Eagles hit back to shatter Storm

Vic Batchelder

AYR Scottish Eagles, last season's Superleague champions, gave themselves the ideal boost ahead of their European League match in Litvinov tomorrow when they twice came from behind to gain a 4–3 home win over the current leaders, the Manchester Storm.

"If we want to retain the title they are going to be the team to beat, so that was a huge result for us," said the Ayr coach Jim Lynch after Sam Groleau and Ryan Kummu had scored the goals that overturned a 3–2 deficit.

Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham Panthers' coach, played his first game for two years and Simon Hunt turned out with a broken thumb to prevent their injury-hit club being fined for icing a below-strength team at home to Newcastle Riverkings. The Panthers hit back from two down to win 4–2.

Hockey

Perfect Price for Bowdon as Stourport crash out of cup

Pat Rowley

ALL the Premier clubs came through their tests against regional clubs in the third round of the men's and women's EHA Cups, but seven National League clubs suffered a hasty exit.

Yesterday's outstanding performance was by Bowdon, the promotion-chasing North League club, who beat Stourport, the National League First Division leaders, 3–1 with two goals from Geoff Price. In other men's upsets, Jon Rees, formerly of Hounslow and Wales, scored twice to help Old Cranleighans to a 4–3 win over Hampstead; Jamie Oxley got a brace in a 5–2 Clacton victory over Eastcote; Alex Gitlin got two as Northampton Saints upset Hull 3–1; while there was a hat-trick by Brian Lock in Chichester's 5–3 success at Isca.

Late goals saw the demise of Poynton and Sunderland of the women's second division. Dulwich beat Sunderland 4–3 with a last-minute winner by Louise Keith while Tulse Hill's Zoe Barford scored the only goal against Poynton.

Cannock beat Beeston 6–2 in the rematch of last season's cup finalists and, in the only other all-Premier match, a hat-trick of corner goals by England's Nick Thompson took Old Loughtonians to a 5–3 win at Guildford.

Cannock lost ground in the league on Saturday, being held to a 2–2 draw by Reading. Canterbury stayed on top thanks to a late penalty conversion by David Mathews which gave them a 3–2 win at Hounslow. Mathews followed up with a cup hat-trick as Canterbury demolished Cambridge City 8–1.

Ipswich stayed on top of the women's National League but needed a late goal by Lucy Youngs for a 2–1 win against Hightown. Slough, Ipswich's nearest rivals, defeated Sutton 5–2 in the league and demolished Havant 12–0 in the cup.

Hero Huggett ensures age comes just before beauty

Elspeth Burnside on a brave attempt by Europe's women at Praia d'El Rey

ALMOST 30 years have passed since Brian Huggett, the British seniors champion, dissolved into tears after helping Great Britain & Ireland finish all square with the United States in the 1969 Ryder Cup at Birkdale.

There was no weeping in Portugal yesterday, but the Welshman, three days before his 62nd birthday, proved he has lost none of his battling spirit when he performed a similar role as the Men's Senior team salvaged a draw with the Europe's top women after a thrilling final day's play in the annual European Cup event between the two tours.

As defending champions, the 10-all scoreline meant the men retained the cup, but the consolation for the women was that the money was shared at £7,500 a player. It was certainly the perfect climax to a match played in glorious sunshine along the picturesque Portuguese coast.

The women, needing to win seven of the 10 singles to reverse last year's result, had been written off in many quarters on Saturday night. But they came so close, winning six and sharing one.

Tommy Horton, beaten 4 & 2 by his counterpart Marie Laure de Lorenzi in the final match, was a relieved man. "It was an extraordinary day," he said.

"The scoring was absolutely fantastic and great credit to the women. If this doesn't make this event a success, nothing will."

The crucial match was the fifth string between Huggett and Catrin Nilsmark, who sank the winning putt for Europe in the 1992 Solheim Cup. On the back foot from the moment she lost the first two holes to birdies, Nilsmark got back to all square following a freak episode at the par-four 13th where Huggett's second shot hit the bottom of the flag stick, cannoned 25 yards off the green and he failed to make par.

Urged on by her husband and caddie, Frederik, Nilsmark then took the lead for the first time at the 16th. But Huggett, who won 16 titles in a 16-year career on the regular tour, played one of his career-best shots at the 18th, a four-iron that drew up eight feet past the hole. The putt never wavered.

"The shot at the 13th could have cost us, but it was wonderful to pull it of at the 18th," said Huggett, while Horton added: "Brian just gets better with age." De Lorenzi was, naturally, disappointed. But she said: "It feels like a win, it was a great day for my girls."

It was indeed, as they packed 50 birdies into the 10 matches.

هكذا من الأصل

FA Carling Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
		Home					Away						
Aston Villa	12	5	1	0	11	4	3	3	0	7	2	12	28
Man Utd	12	5	2	0	18	6	2	2	1	8	5	15	25
Arsenal	13	4	3	0	10	2	2	3	1	4	3	9	24
Chelsea	11	4	2	0	10	3	1	3	1	7	7	7	20
Leeds	13	3	2	1	6	2	1	6	0	10	8	6	20
West Ham	13	3	3	1	10	8	2	2	2	6	7	1	20
Middlesbrough	13	2	4	0	10	5	2	3	2	11	11	5	19
Derby	12	2	3	1	6	4	2	2	2	6	6	2	17
Leicester	13	3	2	1	7	4	1	3	3	6	9	0	17
Wimbledon	13	2	3	1	10	8	2	2	3	7	14	-5	17
Charlton	13	2	3	1	12	6	1	4	2	8	11	3	16
Liverpool	13	2	3	2	13	10	2	1	3	7	7	3	16
Newcastle	13	3	2	2	10	9	1	2	3	6	8	-1	16
Tottenham	13	2	2	2	9	12	2	2	3	7	9	-5	16
Coventry	13	3	1	3	8	9	1	1	4	4	9	-6	14
Sheff Wed	13	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	5	6	11	-3	12
Everton	13	0	4	2	1	5	2	2	3	6	9	-7	12
Blackburn	13	2	1	3	9	8	0	2	5	5	12	-6	9
Nottm Forest	12	1	2	3	2	5	1	1	4	6	13	-10	9
Southampton	13	1	2	4	9	16	0	2	4	1	14	-20	7

Premiership results

Arsenal (0) 0 Tottenham (0) 0
Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn; Parlour, Vieira, Petit, Ljungberg (Wreh 61min); Anelka (Boa Morte 81), Overmars. Subs not used: Manninger, Hughes, Grimandi.
Tottenham (3-5-2): Baardsen; Scales, Vega, Campbell; Carr, Anderton, Calderwood (Sinton 80), Nielsen, Edinburgh; Armstrong, Iversen. Subs not used: Walker, Ginola, Allen, Clemence.
Att: 38,278. Ref: A Wilkie (Chester-le-Street).

Charlton (1) 1 Middlesbro (0) 1
Mendonca 37 (pen) — Stamp 74
Charlton (5-3-2): Ilic; Mills (Redfearn 60), Rufus, Youds, Tyler, Powell; Robinson, K Jones, Kinsella; Hunt, Mendonca (S Jones 72). Subs not used: Brown, Holmes, Royce.
Middlesbrough (5-3-2): Schwarzer; Fleming, Cooper, Vickers, Festa, Gordon; Mustoe, Gascoigne (Stamp 46), Townsend; Ricard, Deane (Beck 79). Subs not used: Beresford, Summerbell, Blackmore.
Att: 20,043. Ref: M Riley (Leeds).

Chelsea (1) 3 Wimbledon (0) 0
Zola 32, Poyet 55, Petrescu 70
Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey; Lambourde, Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux; Petrescu, Di Matteo (Morris 85), Poyet (Duberry 80), Babayaro; Flo, Zola (Nicholls 80). Subs not used: Hitchcock, Goldbaek.
Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Cunningham, Perry, Thatcher, Kimble (Blackwell 67); Hughes (Ekoku 67), Roberts, Earle, Kennedy; Ainsworth, Gayle (Leaburn 67). Subs not used: Heald, Ardley.
Att: 34,757. Ref: J Winter (Stockton-on-Tees).

Coventry (1) 3 Everton (0) 0
Froggatt 15, Huckerby 48, Whelan 89
Coventry (4-4-2): Hedman; Nilsson, Williams, Shaw, Edworthy; Telfer, Clement, McAllister, Froggatt; Huckerby, Whelan. Subs not used: Ogrizovic, Breen, Boateng, Soltvedt, Shilton.
Everton (3-5-2): Myhre; Short, Materazzi, Unsworth; Cleland (Milligan 79), Hutchison, Collins, Grant, Ball; Ferguson, Bakayoko (Cadamarteri 57). Subs not used: Simonsen, Watson, Dunne.
Att: 19,290. Ref: G Poll (Tring).

Liverpool (0) 1 Leeds (0) 3
Fowler 68 (pen) — Smith 79, Hasselbaink 81, 86
Liverpool (4-4-2): James; Heggem, Staunton, Carragher, Bjornebye; Thompson, Ince, Redknapp, Berger; Riedle (Leonhardsen 70), Fowler. Subs not used: Friedel, Kvarme, Babb, Murphy.
Leeds (3-4-3): Martyn; Molenaar, Hiden, Woodgate; Harte, Hopkin, Bowyer, Halle; Kewell, Hasselbaink, Wijnhard (Smith 75). Subs not used: Robinson, Ribeiro, Wetherall, Haaland.
Att: 44,305. Ref: D Gallagher (Banbury).

Man Utd (2) 3 Blackburn (0) 2
Scholes 32, 58; Yorke 44 — Marcolin 55, Blake 74
Man Utd (4-4-2): Schmeichel; Curtis, G Neville, Stam, P Neville; Beckham, Butt, Scholes (Cruyff 63, Keane 61), Blomqvist (Solskjaer 66); Cole, Yorke. Subs not used: Irwin, Berg.
Blackburn (4-4-2): Filan; Kenna, Henchoz, Peacock, Davidson; Johnson, Dailly, Sherwood, Duff (Marcolin 51); Davies (Gallacher 78), Blake. Subs not used: Fettis, Dunn.
Att: 55,198. Ref: M Reed (Birmingham).

Newcastle (1) 1 Sheff Wed (0) 1
Dalglish 4 — Rudi 80
Newcastle (4-4-2): Given; Barton, Charvet, Hughes, Griffin (Serrant h-t); Gillespie, Lee, Hamann (Batty 36), Speed; Shearer (Andersson h-t), Dalglish. Subs not used: Harper, Solano.
Sheffield Wed (4-4-2): Srnicek; Atherton, Thome, Walker, Hinchcliffe; Alexandersson, Jonk, Sonner (Magilton 55), Rudi; Carbone (Humphreys 65), Booth. Subs not used: Clarke, Newsome, Stefanovic.
Att: 36,698. Ref: P Jones (Loughborough).

Southampton (0) 1 Aston Villa (1) 4
Le Tissier 53 — Dublin 3, 56, 85; Merson 77
Southampton (4-4-2): Jones; Hiley, Monkou, Lundekvam (Beattie h-t), Benali; Ripley, Dodd, Palmer, Oakley; Le Tissier, Ostenstad. Subs not used: Dryden, Kachloul.
Aston Villa (3-4-1-2): Oakes; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry; Watson, Taylor, Hendrie, Wright; Merson (Joachim 83); Collymore, Dublin (Draper 79). Subs not used: Thompson, Grayson, Rachel.
Att: 15,242. Ref: N Berry (Scunthorpe).

West Ham (1) 3 Leicester (1) 2
Kitson 37, Lomas 56, Lampard 75 — Izzet 28, Lampard 87 (og)
West Ham (3-5-2): Hislop; Pearce, Ferdinand, Dicks; Sinclair, Lomas, Keller; Berkovic, Lampard; Kitson (Moncur 90), Wright. Subs not used: Sealey, Breacker, Potts, Hartson.
Leicester (5-3-2): Keller; Savage, Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Guppy; Parker (Campbell, 62), Ullathorne, Lennon; Fenton (Stuart Wilson, 70), Izzet (Cottee, 6). Substitutes not used: Arphexad, Oakes.
Att: 25,642. Ref: S Lodge (Barnsley).

Non-league

CONFERENCE

Dover (0) 0 Kettering (0) 1
Att: 887 — McNamara 71

Forest Grn (2) 3 Northwich (1) 1
Hunt 22pen, Terry 38, Cook 55, 69 — Att: 884

Hereford (0) 2 Farnborough (0) 0
Leadbeater 55 (pen), Dyer 89 — Att: 1,765

Morecambe (1) 2 Leek Town (2) 2
Lyons 43, Healy 90 — Tike 9, Ellis 20. Att: 840

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Accrington Stanley 2 Gainsborough 1; Bamber Bridge 5 Spennymoor 1; Bishop Auckland 2 Altrincham 1; Chorley 2 Stalybridge 1; Frickley 1 Guiseley 2; Hyde Utd 2 Colwyn Bay 2; Winsford Utd 2 Blyth Spartans 2; Worksop 7 Marine 1. **First:** Alfreton Tn 1 Netherfield Kendal 2; Ashton Utd 1 Belper Tn 0; Congleton Tn 2 Radcliffe Bor 5; Eastwood Tn 1 Harrogate Tn 1; Farsley Celtic 1 Droylsden 1; Flixton 0 Bradford PA 2; Gretna 3 Matlock Tn 2; Hucknall Tn 2 Whitley Bay 2; Lincoln Utd 2 Burscough 0; Witton Alb 0 Trafford 1. **Challenge Cup: Second round:** Whitby Tn 1 Gateshead 2.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aylesbury 2 Purfleet 1; Bromley 1 Sutton Utd 1; Harrow Bor 1 Aldershot Tn 0; Walton & Hersham 2 Bishop's Stortford 2; Carshalton 1 Heybridge 2. **Postponed:** Dag & Red v Hampton. **First:** Berkhamsted Tn 2 Croydon 2; Canvey Island 0 Barton Rvrs 2; Grays Ath 1 Bognor Regis Tn 5; Hitchin Tn 1 Leyton Pennant 0; Maidenhead Utd 0 Romford 2; Molesey 1 Yeading 1; Staines Tn 0 Oxford C 0; Uxbridge 0 Wealdstone 1; Worthing 2 Braintree Tn 2. **Postponed:** Leatherhead v Whyteleafe; Wembley v Chertsey Tn. **Second:** Bedford Tn 6 Northwood 0; Bracknell Tn 0 Horsham 1; Edgware Tn 3 Wokingham Tn 0; Marlow 2 Hertford Tn 1; Windsor & Eton 2 Witham Tn 1; Wivenhoe Tn 1 Harlow Tn 2. **Postponed:** Banstead Ath v Thame Utd; Barking v Hungerford Tn; Hemel Hempstead v Tooting & Mitcham. **Third:** Cheshunt 2 Southall 0; Croydon Ath 1 Tilbury 3; Dorking 0 Egham Tn 4; East Thurrock Utd 4 Kingsbury Tn 0; Flackwell Hth 0 Hornchurch 0; Ware 2 Lewes 1. **Postponed:** Clapton v Corinthian Casuals; Tring Tn v Aveley.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Crawley Tn 2 Gloucester C 1; Halesowen 2 Merthyr 0; Hastings 0 Nuneaton 4; Ilkeston Tn 0 Bath C 0; Rothwell Tn 2 Bromsgrove 0; Weymouth 1 Kings Lynn 0; Grantham 1 Atherstone 1; Cambridge C 1 Boston Utd 4. **Midlands:** Bilston Tn 1 Stamford AFC 1; Bloxwich Tn 0 Newport AFC 6; Cinderford Tn 2 Moor Green 3; Clevedon Tn 3 Bedworth Utd 4; Hinckley Utd 0 Evesham Utd 1; Paget Rngrs 5 VS Rugby 2; RC Warwick 1 Sutton Coldfield Tn 1; Shepshed Dynamo 3 Redditch Utd 5; Solihull Bor 1 Wisbech Tn 0; Weston-S-Mare 2 Stafford Rngrs 3. **Postponed:** Stourbridge v Blakenall. **Southern:** Andover 3 Erith & Belvedere 1; Baldock Tn 0 St Leonards 2; Brackley Tn 0 Witney Tn 4; Chelmsford C 2 Margate 3; Cirencester Tn 1 Bashley 1; Corby Tn 0 Sittingbourne 0; Fleet Tn 2 Fisher Ath London 1; Tonbridge Angels 1 Folkestone Invicta 1; Yate Tn 0 Raunds Tn 3. **Postponed:** Ashford Tn v Havant & Waterlooville; Dartford v Newport (IoW).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor C 1 Aberystwyth 2; Caernarfon Tn 1 Connah's Quay 1; Conwy 2 Caersws 1; Holywell 1 Carmarthen Tn 1; Inter Cable-Tel 1 TNS 1; Newtown 4 Afan Lido 0; Rhyl 0 Barry Tn 6.

UNIBOND PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Winsford Utd	17	9	6	2	30	18	33
Worksop	18	10	3	5	25	15	33
Guiseley	15	9	2	4	26	17	29
Gainsborough	18	8	4	6	27	19	28
Bamber Bridge	17	8	4	5	24	22	28
Altrincham	17	7	5	5	25	17	26
Emley	15	6	6	3	22	17	24
Whitby Town	16	6	6	4	29	25	24
Lancaster	14	6	5	3	22	15	23
Gateshead	17	6	5	6	26	22	23
Blyth Spartans	18	7	2	9	20	27	23
Leigh RMI	15	6	4	5	25	20	22
Colwyn Bay	19	6	4	9	23	30	22
Hyde Utd	15	5	6	4	19	13	21
Marine	18	4	6	8	24	30	20
B Auckland	20	5	5	10	27	35	20
Runcorn	13	4	7	2	15	14	19
Frickley	15	4	6	5	18	21	18
A Stanley	17	4	4	9	19	28	16
Stalybridge	16	3	5	8	20	28	14
Chorley	18	2	8	8	22	34	14
Spennymoor	18	3	3	12	23	42	12

RYMAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	15	10	4	1	29	11	34
Billericay Tn	15	8	5	2	20	10	29
St Albans	14	8	4	2	27	16	28
Sutton Utd	14	8	3	3	26	16	27
Dag & Red	14	7	3	4	34	21	24
Purfleet	14	7	3	4	24	17	24
Gravesend	15	7	3	5	20	15	24
Aldershot Tn	14	6	4	4	33	13	22
Hendon	15	6	4	5	29	26	22
Harrow Borough	16	6	4	6	26	24	22
Bromley	16	5	4	7	26	25	19
Basingstoke	13	5	3	5	24	19	18
Enfield	14	5	2	7	21	22	17
Slough	14	4	5	5	21	26	17
Chesham	14	5	2	7	19	26	17
Boreham Wood	14	3	7	4	17	21	16
Dulwich	14	4	4	6	13	20	16
Hampton	15	4	4	7	19	32	16
W & Hersham	14	4	3	7	18	22	15
B Stortford	16	2	7	7	24	39	13
Heybridge	15	2	4	9	13	40	10
Carshalton	15	2	2	11	15	37	8

DR MARTENS PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	17	12	3	2	41	12	39
Gresley Rovers	13	8	2	3	20	13	26
Ilkeston Tn	16	7	5	4	27	21	26
Atherstone	15	7	5	3	24	18	26
Hastings	15	7	3	5	17	13	24
Crawley Town	14	7	3	4	20	19	24
Boston Utd	17	5	8	4	26	18	23
Bath City	14	7	2	5	18	12	23
Merthyr	16	7	2	7	28	23	23
Cambridge City	17	7	2	8	20	25	23
Worcester City	13	7	1	5	15	17	22
Gloucester City	14	5	5	4	18	15	20
Halesowen	18	5	2	8	23	25	20
Tamworth	14	6	2	6	19	23	20
Rothwell Town	15	5	5	5	14	18	20
Weymouth	15	5	4	6	18	19	19
Burton Albion	14	5	2	7	21	23	17
Bromsgrove	16	5	2	9	17	28	17
Grantham	15	5	1	9	22	27	16
Salisbury	14	4	3	7	16	24	15
Kings Lynn	14	3	1	10	14	28	10
Dorchester	14	1	3	10	12	28	6

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier: Backwell Utd 0 Odd Down 1; Bristol MF 0 Brislington 2; Chippenham Tn 3 Bridport 1; Keynsham Tn 1 Bridgwater Tn 4; Mangotsfield Utd 1 Bishop Sutton 2; Paulton Rvrs 5 Elmore 2; Taunton Tn 3 Yeovil TR 0; Tiverton Tn 6 Westbury Utd 0.

Europe

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina	9	6	0	3	19	11	18
Roma	9	5	2	2	17	8	17
Juventus	9	5	2	2	12	9	17
Parma	9	4	4	1	11	4	16
*Milan	8	4	2	2	14	10	14
Internazionale	9	4	2	3	17	14	14
Lazio	9	3	4	2	15	11	13
Bologna	9	3	4	2	11	8	13
Cagliari	9	3	2	4	16	14	11
Piacenza	9	3	2	4	15	13	11
*Bari	8	2	5	1	9	8	11
Perugia	8	3	2	4	12	15	11
Sampdoria	9	3	2	4	10	18	11
Udinese	9	2	4	3	12	16	10
Empoli	9	2	3	4	7	13	9
Vicenza	9	2	3	4	7	14	9
Salernitana	9	2	1	6	6	15	7
Venezia	9	1	2	6	4	13	5

(*=Not including late match)

Empoli	2	Cagliari	1
Milan	3	Sampdoria	0
Parma	4	Udinese	1
Piacenza	4	Fiorentina	2
Roma	2	Juventus	0
Salernitana	2	Perugia	0
Venezia	2	Lazio	0
Vicenza	0	Bologna	4

SPANISH LEAGUE: Athletic Bilbao 3 Oviedo 5; Barcelona 4 Tenerife 1; Real Betis 1 Real Sociedad 0; Deportivo Coruna 2 Alaves 2; Extremadura 1 Valencia 0; Racing Santander 4 Salamanca 1; Valladolid 1 Mallorca 0; Real Zaragoza 0 Espanyol 3. **Saturday:** Real Madrid 1 Celta Vigo 2. **Leading standings:** 1 Celta Vigo P10 Pts20; 2 Barcelona 10–19; 3 Mallorca 10–19.

GERMAN LEAGUE: SC Freiburg 1 TSV 1860 Munich 2. **Saturday:** Wolfsburg 2 Hertha Berlin 1; Bayer Leverkusen 3 Nuremberg 0; Borussia Dortmund 3 Schalke 04 0; Hamburg 0 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Bayern Munich 2 VfB Stuttgart 0; MSV Duisburg 2 VfL Bochum 0. **Friday:** Werder Bremen 0 Kaiserslautern 1; Hansa Rostock 1 Borussia Mönchengladbach 1. **Leading standings:** 1 Bayern Munich P12 Pts31; 2 Bayer Leverkusen 13–26; 3 TSV 1860 Munich 13–26.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Vitesse Arnhem 2 Utrecht 0; RKC Waalwijk 5 Sparta Rotterdam 1; Feyenoord 4 Fortuna Sittard 1; Willem II Tilburg 2 NAC Breda 1; Ajax Amsterdam 2 PSV Eindhoven 2. **Saturday:** Graafschap Doetinchem 2 Roda JC Kerkrade 3; MVV Maastricht 2 AZ Alkmaar 1; NEC Nijmegen 2 Twente Enschede 2. **Leading standings:** 1 Feyenoord P12 Pts29; 2 Heerenveen 13–28; 3 Ajax Amsterdam 14–28.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Strasbourg 2 Lorient 0. **Saturday:** Marseille 1 Lens 0; Bordeaux 0 Sochaux 0; Rennes 0 Lyon 0; Bastia 3 Monaco 1; Montpellier 3 Auxerre 0; Metz 1 Nantes 0; Toulouse 1 Nancy 1. **Leading standings:** 1 Marseille P14 Pts36; 2 Bordeaux 14–32; 3 Rennes 14–27.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Club Bruges 3 Charleroi 2; Germinal Ekeren 2 Kortrijk 1; Harelbeke 2 Ostend 1. **Saturday:** Sint-Truiden 2 Genk 2; Westerlo 0 Beveren 0; Excelsior Mouscron 3 Eendracht Aalst 1; Lommel 0 Ghent 1; Lokeren 2 Lierse 0. **Leading standings:** 1 Club Bruges P14 Pts32; 2 Genk 14–30; 3 Lokeren 14–27.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Beira Mar 0 Farense 1; Chaves 1 Uniao Leiria 2; Rio Ave 2 Maritimo 1; Vitoria Setubal 3 Salgueiros 0; Benfica 4 Braga 1. **Saturday:** Estrela Amadora 1 Vitoria Guimaraes 1; Campomaiorense 0 Porto 2. **Friday:** Academica 2 Boavista 3.

Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	18	11	7	0	42	12	40
Ipswich	18	10	5	3	26	10	35
Watford	19	9	5	5	31	27	32
Birmingham	19	9	5	5	25	17	32
Bradford	19	9	4	6	34	20	31
Sheff Utd	18	8	6	5	31	28	30
Wolverhampton	19	8	5	6	27	18	29
Norwich	17	8	5	4	27	21	29
Huddersfield	19	8	5	6	26	28	29
West Brom	18	8	3	7	36	33	27
Crystal Palace	16	8	2	6	28	28	26
Grimsby	18	7	5	6	23	21	26
Bolton	17	6	7	4	33	29	25
Stockport	18	4	10	4	23	24	22
Tranmere	18	4	9	5	23	26	21
Port Vale	19	6	3	10	21	35	21
Bury	19	5	6	8	14	20	21
Swindon	19	5	5	9	27	35	20
Barnsley	19	4	8	7	22	27	20
Portsmouth	19	4	6	8	27	32	18
QPR	18	5	3	10	17	27	18
Oxford Utd	19	4	5	10	20	33	17
Bristol City	19	3	6	10	27	44	15
Crewe	18	2	5	11	19	37	11

Barnsley (0) 0 Ipswich (1) 1
Johnson 5
Barnsley T. Bullock, Morgan, De Zeeuw, Eaden, McClare (Moore 58), Appleby, M. Bullock (Moses 46), Sheridan, Fjortoft (Hendrie 70), Dyer, Barnard.
Ipswich Wright, Kennedy, Thetis, Clapham, Mowbray, Venus, Dyer, Holland, Johnson (Hunt 27), Scowcroft, Petta (Naylor 49). Sub not used: Tanner.
Att: 15,966. Ref: M Fletcher (Warley).

Birmingham (0) 0 Oxford (0) 1
Murphy 27
Birmingham Poole, Rowett, Grainger (Charlton 65), Purse (Forster 80), Marsden, Johnson, McCarthy, Adebola (Hughes 37), Furlong, Holland, Ndlovu.
Oxford Utd Whitehead, Robinson, Marsh, Gray, Wilsterman, Gilchrist, Murphy (Wright 88), Smith, Thomson, Windass, Powell. Subs not used: Rose, Cook.
Att: 18,216. Ref: J Kirkby (Sheffield).

Bolton (0) 2 Tranmere (1) 2
Johansen 53, Holdsworth 58 (pen) — Irons 32, 87 (2 pens)
Bolton Jaaskelainen, Cox, Whitlow (Elliott 75), Strong, Fish, Jensen (Aljofree 82), Johansen, Frandsen, Holdsworth (Taylor 75), Sellars, Gunnlaugsson.
Tranmere Achterberg, Allen, Thompson, Challinor, Hill, Irons, Mahon (Morrissey 77), Santos, Jones (Kelly 71), Mellon, Taylor. Sub not used: Koumas.
Att: 16,664. Ref: C Foy (St Helens).

Bradford C (0) 3 Swindon (0) 0
Beagrie 48 (pen), Pepper 79, Jacobs 90
Bradford C Walsh, Lawrence, Jacobs, Pepper, Moore, Westwood (O'Brien 68), Rankin, Blake; Mills (Watson 83), Whalley, Beagrie. Sub not used: Todd.
Swindon Talia, Taylor, Hall, Davis, Willis, Borrows (Hulbert 65), Walters (Campagna 85), Watson, Onuora, Fenn, Gooden. Sub not used: Cowe.
Att: 14,697. Ref: E Lomas (Manchester).

Crewe (0) 0 QPR (1) 2
Peacock 34, Sheron 52
Crewe Kearton, Bignot, Smith, Lightfoot (Macauley 45), Walton, Charnock (Anthrobus 45), Wright, Johnson, Jack, Little, Rivers (Street 84).
QPR Miklosko, Heinola, Baraclough, Kulcsar, Rose, Morrow, Langley, Peacock, Sheron, Gallen, Rowland. Subs not used: Scully, Plummer, Dowie.
Att: 5,001. Ref: C Wilkes (Gloucester).

C Palace (1) 2 Bristol C (1) 1
Bradbury 5, Jansen 89 — Andersen 35
C Palace Digby, Austin (Tuttle 45), Jihai, Petric, Burton, Foster, Lombardo, Rizzo (Curcic 58), Bradbury (Morrison 77), Jansen, Mullins.
Bristol C Welch, Murray, Bell, Hutchings, Shail, Carey, Edwards, Thorpe, Akinbiyi, Andersen, Brennan. Subs not used: Dyche, Brown, Goodridge.
Att: 17,821. Ref: R Furnandiz (Doncaster).

Grimsby (1) 1 Portsmouth (1) 1
Groves 26 — Aloisi 23
Grimsby Love, McDermott, Gallimore, Handyside, Livingstone, Widdrington, Coldicott (Lever 80), Smith (Ashcroft 63), Nogan (Black 72), Lester, Groves.
Portsmouth Petterson, Thogersen, Simpson, McLoughlin, Waterman, Awford, Perrett, Peron, Aloisi, Claridge, Igoe. Subs not used: Durnin, Phillips, Thomson.
Att: 8,236. Ref: K Lynch (Kirk Hammerton).

Norwich (0) 0 Wolves (0) 0
Norwich A. Marshall, Llewellyn, Mackay, Grant, Fleming, Jackson, L. Marshall, Bellamy (O'Neill 81), Roberts, Eadie, Adams. Subs not used: Russell, Watt.
Wolves Stowell, Atkins, Naylor, Richards, Emblen, Curle, Corica, Robinson, Connolly, Whittingham (Keane 77), Osborn. Subs not used: Ferguson, Murray.
Att: 17,275. Ref: P Richards (Preston).

Port Vale (0) 0 Sunderland (1) 2
Aspin 25 (og), Quinn 65
Port Vale Pilkington, Aspin, McGlinchey, Bogie, Barnett, Beesley, Bent (Horlaville 66), Barker, Beadle, Foyle, Koordes. Subs not used: Eyre, Snijders.
Sunderland Sorensen, Makin, Scott, Williams, Melville, Butler, Summerbee, Clark (Smith 81), Quinn, Bridges (Dichio 75), Johnston. Sub not used: Craddock.
Att: 8,839. Ref: F Stretton (Nottingham).

Sheffield U (0) 3 Bury (1) 1
Katchouro 57, 71, 80 — James 39
Sheffield U Tracey, Borbokis, Quinn, Hamilton, Nilsen, Derry, Saunders, Marker, Katchouro, Woodhouse, Stuart. Subs not used: Twiss, Ford, Marcelo.
Bury Kiely, Woodward, Williams, Daws, Luckett, Billy (Jemson 82), Swailes, Littlejohn (West 61), D'Jaffo, Johnrose, James. Sub not used: Patterson.
Att: 14,164. Ref: S Mathieson (Stockport).

Stockport (1) 1 Watford (1) 1
Dinning 36 (pen) — Johnson 9
Stockport Nash, Dinning, Woodthorpe, Cook, Flynn, McIntosh, Gannon (Grant 64), Mathews (Cooper 71), Angell, McInnes, Branch (Travis 84).
Watford Chamberlain, Bazeley, Kennedy, Page, Palmer, Robinson (Mooney 56), Smart, Hyde, Noel-Williams, Johnson, Wright. Subs not used: Gudmondsson, Pluck.
Att: 8,019. Ref: G Frankland (Middlesbrough).

WBA (1) 3 Huddersfield (1) 1
Hughes 26, 75 (2 pens), 84 — Beresford 6
WBA Miller, Holmes, Van Blerk, Flynn, Murphy, Carbon, Quinn (Angel 71), Bortolazzi, De Freitas (Sneekes 86), Hughes, Kilbane. Sub not used: Mardon.
Huddersfield Vaesen, Jenkins, Edwards, Johnson, Jackson, Gray, Phillips, Horne, Stewart (Facey 77), Allison, Beresford (Richardson 77). Sub not used: Barnes.
Att: 13,828. Ref: B Knight (Orpington).

Leading goalscorers (total): **21** Hughes (West Brom). **17** Aloisi (Portsmouth). **13** Ward (Barnsley). **12** Gunnlaugsson (Bolton); Bellamy (Norwich). **11** Onuora (Swindon); Johnson (Ipswich); Stewart (Huddersfield). 10 Mills (Bradford); Saunders (Sheff Utd); Akinbiyi (Bristol C). **9** Adebola (Birmingham); Allison (Huddersfield); Dichio (Sunderland); Beagrie (Bradford).

POOLS CHECK: Half-time: Score draws (12): 8, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 27, 35, 40, 45, 47, 49. **No-score draws** (12): 1, 4, 12, 18, 23, 28, 30, 31, 32, 38, 39, 46. **Void:** (1): 34. **Full-time: Score draws** (13): 2, 8, 11, 15, 19, 24, 28, 31, 32, 35, 40, 45, 49. **No-score draws** (4): 1, 18, 30, 46. **Void:** (1): 34.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National Division: Everton 2 Ilkeston Tn 1; Liverpool 0 Arsenal 5; Tranmere Rvrs 3 Southampton 0. **Postponed:** Doncaster Belles v Croydon.

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	18	12	1	5	27	15	37
Fulham	16	11	3	2	26	12	36
Walsall	18	11	2	5	28	23	35
Preston	17	9	5	3	32	17	32
Gillingham	18	7	8	3	28	19	29
Chesterfield	16	8	4	4	17	10	28
Man City	18	7	6	5	23	18	27
Luton	18	8	3	5	21	16	27
Millwall	18	7	5	6	18	20	26
Blackpool	17	7	4	6	24	23	25
Bournemouth	18	6	6	4	24	19	24
Wigan	17	7	2	8	22	18	23
Reading	17	6	5	6	20	24	23
Bristol Rovers	18	5	6	7	21	22	21
Notts County	17	5	6	6	20	21	21
Wrexham	18	5	6	7	17	24	21
York	17	5	5	7	22	30	20
Burnley	18	5	5	8	21	35	20
Colchester	17	5	5	7	16	22	20
Macclesfield	18	4	6	8	16	23	18
Northampton	18	3	8	7	17	21	17
Wycombe	18	3	5	10	16	25	14
Oldham	18	3	4	11	14	28	13
Lincoln City	17	3	2	12	15	32	11

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	18	9	5	4	27	18	32
Rotherham	18	9	4	5	37	24	31
Cardiff	17	9	4	4	19	14	31
Brentford	16	10	0	6	31	23	30
Scunthorpe	18	9	3	6	31	29	30
Cambridge Utd	18	9	3	6	30	23	30
Leyton Orient	18	7	7	4	19	18	28
Mansfield	17	8	3	6	23	21	27
Plymouth	17	8	3	6	21	14	27
Darlington	16	7	4	5	23	20	25
Brighton	18	8	1	9	21	28	25
Peterborough	17	7	3	7	31	24	24
Exeter	17	7	3	7	20	21	24
Rochdale	17	6	5	6	17	19	23
Hartlepool	18	6	4	8	26	28	22
Southend	18	5	6	7	21	25	21
Swansea	17	5	6	6	19	18	21
Shrewsbury	18	5	6	7	14	20	21
Chester	17	4	8	5	21	25	20
Carlisle	15	5	4	6	15	17	19
Torquay	18	3	9	6	19	25	18
Barnet	18	5	3	10	18	29	18
Scarborough	17	4	3	10	19	26	15
Hull	18	3	3	12	15	33	12

FA Cup

FIRST ROUND

Basingstk (0) 1 Bournemouth (1) 2
Mancey 87 — O'Neill 37, Stein 68
Basingstoke Benstead, Marshall, Redwood, Richardson (Coombs 79), Harris (Cleeve 85), Lisk, Wilkinson, Simpson, Mancey, Killick, Hurdle. Subs not used: Barker, Lyttle, Huxford.
Bournemouth Ovendale, Young, Vincent, Howe, Berthe (O'Neill 32), Bailey, Cox, Robinson, Stein, Warren, Hughes. Subs not used: Colgan, Rodrigues, Boli, Dean.
Att: 3,830. Ref: P Taylor (Hertfordshire).

Boreham W. (0) 2 Luton (1) 3
Nisbet 54, Xavier 81 — Gray 33, 58; S Davis 78
Boreham Wd Taylor, Sanders, McCarthy, Shaw, Nisbet, Brown (Daly 88), Grime, Heffer, Dixon, Samuels (Xavier 73), Brady (Ireland 67). Subs not used: Hatchett, Sewell.
Luton K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, McLaren, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (Spring 88), Evers, Douglas (Doherty 65), Gray, Nyamah (McIndoe 82). Subs not used: White, Abbey.
Att: 1,772. Ref: P Alcock (Halstead).

Bedlingtn T (2) 4 Colchester (0) 1
Ditchburn 18, Milner 22, 85 (pen), Cross 59 — Adcock 88
Bedlington Terriers O'Connor, Sokoluk, Pike, Teasdale, Ditchburn, Melrose, Cross, Bond, Gibb, Milner, Middleton. Subs not used: Renforth, Bowes, Cameron, Ludlow, Egan.
Colchester Emberson, Dunne, Stamps (Duguid 45), Williams, Greene, Buckle, Dozzell (Haydon 45), Gregory, Sale, Lock, Forbes (Adcock 68). Subs not used: Fernandes, Betts.
Att: 1,800. Ref: M Messias (York).

Brentford (2) 5 Camberley Tn (0) 0
Bates 30, Quinn 42, Folan 63, 74, Hreidarsson 86
Brentford Pearcey, Boxall, Watson, Hreidarsson, Quinn (Rapley 88), Bates, Freeman (Bryan 55), Aspinall (Hebel 35), Owusu, Rowlands, Folan. Subs not used: Dearden, Anderson.
Camberley Tn Gray, Tippins, Heath, J. Sills, Powell, Xiberras, Todd (Ross 82), Jopling (Tomsett 66), Lloyd, T. Sills, Harkness (Garroob 85). Subs not used: Masson, Woods.
Att: 4,763. Ref: K D Hill (Royston).

Bristol R (0) 3 Welling (0) 0
Roberts 51, 70, 71
Bristol Rvrs Jones, Trees, Challis, Penrice, Foster, Smith, Holloway, Meaker, Ipoua (Shore 45), Cureton, Roberts. Subs not used: Collett, Leoni, Low, Zabek.
Welling Utd Knight, Powell, Dolby, Allardyce, Copley (Hynes 71), Skiverton, Linger, Rutherford, Appiah (Riviere 80), Browne, Brown (Watts 82). Subs not used: Side, Harris.
Att: 5,381. Ref: G Cain (Bootle).

Cardiff (3) 6 Chester (0) 0
Fowler 10, 40, Middleton 12, Williams 55, 71, Delaney 63
Cardiff Hallworth, Delaney, Ford, Mitchell, Young, Carpenter, Fowler (Cadette 83), O'Sullivan, Williams (Roberts 83), Nugent, Middleton. Subs not used: Eckhardt, Kelly, Earnshaw.
Chester Cutler, Davidson, Cross (Lancaster 66), Richardson, Crosby, Woods, Flitcroft, Priest, Murphy, Reid (Jones 58), Wright. Subs not used: Shelton, Brown, Moss.
Att: 4,220. Ref: P Danson (Leicester).

Cheltenham (0) 0 Lincoln (0) 1
Thorpe 79
Cheltenham Book, Duff, Victory, Banks, Freeman, Brough, Howells (Milton 84), Bloomer, Eaton (Knight 84), Grayson (Smith 88), Norton. Subs not used: Walker, Jackson.
Lincoln C Richardson, Holmes, Simpson, Fleming, Brown, Austin, Smith, Finnigan, Alcide, Thorpe, Perry. Subs not used: Miller, Gordon, Whitney, Battersby, Vaughan.
Att: 3,588. Ref: B Coddington (Sheffield).

Darlington P Burnley P

Dulwich (0) 0 Southport (0) 1
Houghton 58 (og)
Dulwich Cleevely, Humphrey, Cyrus (Anderson 74), Hewitt, Edwards, Garland (Gorman 83), Griggs, McKimm, Bartley, Thompson, Houghton. Subs not used: Akers, Chin, Smith.
Southport Stewart, Farley, Ryan, Gouck (Formby 46), Guyett, Horner, Quinn (Thompson 42), Butler, Ross (Furlong 83), Gamble, O'Reilly. Subs not used: Bolland, Bagnall.
Att: 1,836. Ref: R Oliver (Sutton Coldfield).

Emley (1) 1 Rotherham (0) 1
Banbrook 14 — Hudson 80
Emley Rhodes, Nicholson (Wood 22), Jones, Thompson, Lacey, David, Banks, Hurst, Thorpe (Calcutt 85), Banbrook, Reynolds. Subs not used: Wilson, Tonks, Smith.
Rotherham Pollitt, Ingledow, Hurst, Garner, Richardson, Warner, Sedgwick, Hudson, Tracey (Glover 50), Berry, Roscoe. Subs not used: Thompson, Pettinger, Roden, Monkhouse.
Att: 6,062. Ref: D Laws (Whitley Bay).

Enfield (0) 2 York (2) 2
Durwell 61, Richardson 86 — Cresswell 16, 35
Enfield Pape, Acton, Naylor, G. Cooper, Terry, Jones, Penn, Bentley, Richardson, Durwell, S. Cooper (Deadman 85). Subs not used: Protheroe, Morgan, Risley, Hall.
York Warrington, McMillan, Garrett, Tinkler (Himsworth 28), Jones, Barras (Reed 72), Conlon, Jordan, Cresswell, Tolson (Rowe 72), Agnew. Subs not used: Woods, Mimms.
Att: 1,634. Ref: P Walton (Winwick).

Fulham (1) 1 Leigh RMI (1) 1
Lehmann 35 — Whealing 20
Fulham Taylor, Uhlenbeek, Brevett, Hayward, Coleman, Symons, Collins, Davis (Trollope 46), Lehmann, Peschisolido, Salako (Horsfield 72). Subs not used: Morgan, Arendse, Smith.
Leigh RMI Felgate, Locke, Whealing, Hill, Prescott, Turpin, Monk (Cryer 83), Ridings, Matthews, Evans, Smyth. Subs not used: Wallace, James, Rostron, Senior.
Att: 7,965. Ref: P Rejer (Wolverhampton).

Hartlepool (1) 2 Carlisle (0) 1
Howard 43, Miller 54 — Stevens 57
Hartlepool Hollund, Knowles, Clark, Ingram, Lee, Di Lella, Brightwell (Rush 75), Miller (Stokoe 81), Howard, Midgley, Stephenson, Rush (Irvine 88). Subs not used: Downey, Hutt.
Carlisle Caig, Bowman, Searle, Whitehead, Brightwell, Prokas, Hopper, Clark, Stevens, Douglas (Thorpe 81), Finney. Subs not used: Varty, Anthony, McAlindon, Heritage.
Att: 2,845. Ref: T Jones (Barrow-in-Furness).

Hednesfrd (0) 3 Barnet (0) 1
Davis 71, Kimmins 79, Carty 90 — Currie 47
Hednesford Morgan, Sedgemore, Colkin, Comyn, Brindley, Bradley, Ware, Lake, Davis (Hayward 84), Carty, Kimmins. Subs not used: Kelly, Jackson, Fitzpatrick, Reece.
Barnet Harrison, Stockley, Harle, Goodhind (Simpson 7), Alsford, Ford, Wilson, Doolan, Charlery, McGleish, Currie, Simpson (King 82). Subs not used: Barnes, Manuel, Fearon.
Att: 1,463. Ref: S Baines (Chesterfield).

Hendon (0) 0 Notts Co (0) 0
Hendon McCann, Howard, Clarke, Daly, Bateman, Cox, Pye (Heard 82), Hyatt, Whitmarsh (Maran 90), Fitzgerald, Lewis. Subs not used: Kelly, Gill, Warmington.
Notts County Ward, Hendon, Pearce, Redmile, Fairclough, Richardson, Owers, Jackson, Farrell (Liburd 79), Jones, Murray. Subs not used: Garcia, Strodder, Tierney, Beattie.
Att: 1,827. Ref: E Wolstenholme (Blackburn).

Kingstonian (0) 1 Burton (0) 0
Holligan 65
Kingstonian Farrelly, Mustafa, Luckett, Crossley, Stewart, Harris, Patterson, Pitcher, Rattray, Holligan (Leworthy 89), Akuamoah. Subs not used: Corbett, Brown, Smith, John.
Burton Goodwin, Davies, Ashby (Francis 87), Marsden, Blount, Grocutt, Lyons, Stride, Holmes, Garner, Spooner. Subs not used: M. Smith, Benton, C. Smith, Webster.
Att: 1,505. Ref: S Tomlin (East Sussex).

L Orient (1) 4 Brighton (1) 2
Richards 25, 47, 76; Walschaerts 68 — Barker 22, Mayo 82
L Orient MacKenzie, Walschaerts, Lockwood, Smith, Hicks, Clark, Ling, Ampadu (M. Joseph 9), Griffiths, Richards (Simba 80), Beall (R. Joseph 80). Subs not used: Canham, Maskell.
Brighton Ormerod, Browne, Sturgess, Armstrong (Morales 52), Storer, Johnson, Bennett, Arnott (Mayo 68), Hart, Barker, Culverhouse. Subs not used: Walton, Hinshelwood, Westcott.
Att: 7,408. Ref: S Bennett (Orpington).

Macclesfld (0) 2 Slough (2) 2
Tomlinson 72, Sodje 87 — Pierson 24, Deaner 38
Macclesfield Price, Hitchen, Ingram (Howarth 90), Payne, Wood, Sodje, Askey, Sorvel, Tomlinson, Sedgemore (Durkan 54), Whittaker. Subs not used: Griffiths, Clyde, Lomas.
Slough Wilkerson, Channing, Hughes (Hardyman 58), Roberts, Pierson, Thorp (Bicknell 73), Denton, Kamp, Deaner (Holsman 60), Hammatt, Browne. Subs not used: Line, Francis.
Att: 2,104. Ref: T Bates (Stoke-on-Trent).

Mansfield (1) 2 Hayes (0) 1
Clarke 8, Lormor 71 — Flynn 74
Mansfield Bowling, Ford (Williams 68), Harper, Peters, Clarke, Hackett, Schofield, Walker (Kerr 57), Lormor, Peacock (Christie 71), Tallon. Subs not used: Ryder, Sedlan.
Hayes Meara, Goodliffe, Flynn, Watts, Bunce, Sparks (Catlin 73), Metcalfe, Hall (Delisser 64), Hodson (Booth 84), Randall, Wilkinson. Subs not used: Charles, Buglione.
Att: 2,673. Ref: L Cable (Woking).

Northamptn (0) 2 Lancaster (1) 1
Thomson 55 (og), 30, Sampson 56
Northampton Turley, Savage, Frain, Sampson, Hodgson (Freestone 53), Hill, Gibb, Seal, Corazzin (Hunt 89), Wilkinson, Parrish. Subs not used: Warner, Lee, Woodman.
Lancaster Thornley, Curwen (Lang 88), Graham (Lavelle 70), Udall, Baldwin, Gelling, Martin, Flannery, Diggle (Cheal 83), Thomson, Parkinson. Subs not used: Hartley, Taylor.
Att: 4,545. Ref: A D'Urso (Billericay).

Oldham (2) 2 Gillingham (0) 0
Salt 33, McNiven 37
Oldham Kelly, McNiven, Holt, Garnett, Rickers, Duxbury, Salt, Sheridan, Tipton (Allott 86), Whitehall (Ritchie 74), Reid. Subs not used: McLean, Swan, Innes.
Gillingham Stannard, Edge, Carr, Smith, Ashby (Bryant 45), Pennock (Hodge 45), Patterson, Hessenthaler (Pinnock 45), Asaba, Southall, Taylor. Subs not used: Nosworthy, Galloway.
Att: 3,173. Ref: A Wiley (Burntwood).

Plymouth (0) 0 Kidderminstr (0) 0
Plymouth Sheffield, Collins, Beswetherick, McCall, Heathcote, Wotton, Barlow, Mauge, McCarthy, Marshall (Phillips 26), Hargreaves. Subs not used: Dungey, Bastow, Ashton, Sweeney.
Kidderminster M Brock, Hinton, Hines, Weir (Wolsey 46), Smith, Yates, Webb, Taylor, Hadley, Arnold, Willetts. Subs not used: Bignall, Davies, Beard, Acton.
Att: 4,284. Ref: A Butler (Sutton-in-Ashfield).

Preston (1) 3 Ford Utd (0) 0
Rankine 31, Harris 53, Darby 90
Preston Lucas, Parkinson, Ludden, Murdock, Kidd, Gregan, Cartwright, Rankine (Darby 73), Nogan (Macken 58), Harris, Appleton. Subs not used: McKenna, Eyres, O'Hanlon.
Ford Utd Chapman, Devereux, Fowler, Beck, Gardner (Hughes 69), Willis, Munday (Bly 72), Reilly (Wakes 80), Wood, Parish, Ford. Subs not used: Murphy, Walduck.
Att: 10,167. Ref: G Laws (Whitley Bay).

Reading (0) 0 Stoke (0) 1
Lightbourne 27
Reading Howie, Bernal, McPherson, Crawford (Roach 45), Primus, Casper, Glasgow, Caskey, Williams, Brayson (Sarr 45), Brebner. Subs not used: Van der Kwaak, Booty, Kromheer.
Stoke Muggleton, Woods, Small, Sigurdsson, Robinson, Forsyth, Keen, Kavanagh, Thorne, Lightbourne (Wallace 82), Oldfield. Subs not used: Whittle, Fraser, MacKenzie, Sturridge.
Att: 10,095. Ref: G Barber (Pyrford).

Runcorn (0) 1 Stevenage (0) 1
McNally 85 — Alford 58
Runcorn Morris, Ward (Carragher 70), Oliver (Callaghan 22), Warder, Ellis, Ruffer, Salt, McNally, Rose, Nolan (Randles 76), Watson. Subs not used: Brooks, Williams.
Stevenage Taylor, Harvey, Naylor, Smith, Howarth, Beevor, Reinelt, Berry, Alford, Love, Samuels. Subs not used: Thompson, Coll, Kean, Gallagher, Rogers.
Att: 1,114. Ref: M Cowburn (Blackpool).

Rushden (1) 1 Shrewsbury (0) 0
Underwood 19
R & D'monds Gayle, Wooding, Bradshaw, Mison, Warburton, Heggs, McElhatton, Butterworth, West, Collins (Rawle 87), Underwood. Subs not used: Rodwell, Brady, Hanlon, Cramman.
Shrewsbury Edwards, Seabury, Hanmer, Wilding, Gayle, Tretton, Berkley, Kerrigan (Steele 65), Jagielka, Evans, Brown. Subs not used: Thompson, Craven, Whelan, Williams.
Att: 4,121. Ref: M Pike (Barrow-in-Furness).

Salisbury (0) 0 Hull (0) 2
Rioch 65, McGinty 79
Salisbury Matthews, Braybrook, Ferrett (Bright 63), Rofe, Emms, Randall, Bowers, Sales, Harbut, Chalk, Housley. Subs not used: Thompson, Reeks, Bush, Coles.
Hull Wilson, Joyce, Mann, Hocking, Whitworth, Hawes, Greaves, Edwards, Brown (Ellington 80), Rioch (Gage 85), McGinty. Subs not used: Dewhurst, French, Morley.
Att: 2,570. Ref: R Styles (Waterlooville).

Scarboro (0) 1 Rochdale (0) 1
Williams 47 — Bryson 75
Scarborough Elliott, Kay, Atkinson, Worrall, Lydiate, Mirankov, Bullimore (Russell 72), Hoyland, Robinson (Campbell 83), Brodie, Williams. Subs not used: Nasbett, Jackson, McNaughton.
Rochdale Edwards, Williams, Sparrow, Hill, Monington, Farrell, Jones (Diaz 54), Palmer, Stuart, Bryson, Peake. Subs not used: Bailey, Key, Bayliss, Carden.
Att: 1,850. Ref: M Dean (Eastham).

Southend (0) 0 Doncaster (1) 1
Penney 12
Southend Margetson, Beard, Stimson (Jones 45), Livett, Newman, Coleman (Fitzpatrick 69), Maher, Burns, Conlon, Whyte (Morley 45), Clarke. Subs not used: Capleton, Gooding.
Doncaster Rvrs Woods, Ibarra, Shaw, Snodin, Warren, Nicol, Maamria, Penney, Doerden (Home 79), Kirkwood, Wright. Subs not used: Cauldwell, George, Jones.
Att: 3,740. Ref: M Halsey (Welwyn Gdn C).

Swansea P Millwall P

Tamworth (1) 2 Exeter (1) 2
Shaw 26, Smith 52 — Gittens 15, Richardson 90
Tamworth McNamara, Warner, Shaw, Steele, Batchelor, Howard, Crawford, Walker, Smith, Dixon, Haughton. Subs not used: Hatton, Mitchell, Price, Wood, Wilson.
Exeter Bayes, Wilkinson (McConnell 63), Power, Baddeley, Richardson, Gittens, Rowbotham, Rees, Flack, Holloway (Gardner 78), Breslan (Fry 84). Subs not used: Blake, Potter.
Att: 2,485. Ref: T Leake (Darwen).

Telford (0) 0 Cambridge (1) 2
Benjamin 22, Butler 66
Telford Williams, Turner, Lyne, Fowler, Bentley, Shakespeare, Doyle, Jones, Norbury (Gray 78), Huckerby, Palmer (Murphy 73). Subs not used: Cartwright, Bytheway, Davis.
Cambridge Marshall, Chenery, Ashbee, Duncan, McNeil, Campbell, Wanless, Kyd (Taylor 59), Butler, Benjamin, Russell. Subs not used: Preece, Van Heusden, Youngs, McAvoy.
Att: 1,818. Ref: G Singh (Wolverhampton).

Walsall (0) 1 Gresley R (0) 0
Roper 79
Walsall Walker, Marsh, Pointon, Keates, Green, Roper, Wrack, Otta (Thomas 85), Rammell, Larusson (Porter 68), Brissett (Watson 80). Subs not used. Platt, Gadsby.
Gresley Rovers Ford, Wardle, Kearns, Fitzpatrick (Fowkes 84), Carvell, Faulkner, Smith (Lonergan 84), Simpson, Pitt, Rowland, Orton. Subs not used: Sander, Grant, Brown.
Att: 4,274. Ref: M Jones (Chester).

Wigan (2) 4 Blackpool (1) 3
Greenall 6, Haworth 44, Barlow 49, Lowe 57 — Bent 16, Ormerod 53, Aldridge 90
Wigan Carroll, Green, Bradshaw, Griffiths, Balmer, Rogers, Kilford, Greenall, Haworth (Lowe 46), O'Neill, Barlow, Lowe (Lee 59). Subs not used: Smith, Sharp, Jenkinson.
Blackpool Banks, Bryan, Hills, Butler, Robinson, Shuttleworth (Jarrett 89), Bent (Bent 76), Clarkson, Aldridge, Bushell, Ormerod. Subs not used: Nowland, Bardsley, Barnes.
Att: 4,640. Ref: D Pugh (Wirral).

Woking (0) 0 Scunthorpe (1) 1
Forrester 35
Woking Batty, Payne, Hollingdale, Saunders, Smith, Danzey, Girdler, Perkins (Bolt 59), Steele, West, Hay. Subs not used: Goddard, French, Flahavan, Ellis.
Scunthorpe Clarke, Housham, McAuley, Logan, Wilcox, Hope, Walker (Harsley 42), Forrester, Marshall, Stamp, Calvo-Garcia. Subs not used: Bull, Evans, Fickling, Laws.
Att: 3,359. Ref: P Dowd (Stoke-on-Trent).

Worcester (0) 0 Torquay (0) 1
Partridge 77
Worcester Hicks, Sandeman, Burnham, Greenman, Talbot, Cottrill, Wells, Chenoweth, Bowen, Griffiths, Hillman. Subs not used: Owen, Wright, Woods, Jones, Watson.
Torquay Veysey, Gurney, Herrera, Aggrey, Robinson, Watter, Clayton, McGorry, Bedeau, Partridge, Hill. Subs not used: Leadbitter, Northmore, Tully, Hapgood, Hadley.
Att: 3,023. Ref: A R Hall (Birmingham).

Wrexham (0) 1 Peterboro (0) 0
Brammer 89
Wrexham Cartwright, McGregor, Hardy, Brammer, Ridler, Carey, Roberts, Owen, Connolly, Rush (Spink 72), Russell (Chalk 78). Subs not used: Brace, Walsh, Skinner.
Peterborough Utd Tyler, Linton, Drury, Scott (Hooper 85), Bodley, Edwards, Davies (Cleaver 90), Castle, Butler, Rowe (Etherington 60), Farrell. Subs not used: Griemink, Gill.
Att: 2,592. Ref: K Leach (Codsall).

Wycombe (0) 1 Chesterfield (0) 0
Scott 73
Wycombe Taylor, Wraight, Vinnicombe, Lawrence, Cousins, McCarthy, Simpson, Brown, Baird, Scott, Emblen (Bulman 72). Subs not used: Read, Westhead, Carroll, Beeton.
Chesterfield Mercer, Hewitt, Jules (Wilkinson 76), Curtis, Williams, Breckin, Howard, Holland (Lee 69), Reeves, Ebdon, Perkins. Subs not used: Leaning, Morris, Lenagh.
Att: 3,302. Ref: B Burns (Scarborough).

Yeovil (1) 2 W Auckland Tn (2) 2
Patmore 39, Hannigan 90 — Milroy 9, Adamson 35
Yeovil Pennock, Piper (Smith 65), Flahlock, Brown, Hannigan, Cousins, Thompson, Stott, Patmore, Dale (Pounder 85), Hayfield (Franklin 85). Subs not used: Mountain, Pickard.
W Auckland Tn Fame, Bainbridge, Stout, Sinclair, Jackson, Fleming, Wheldon, Innes (Johnson 58), Milroy, Adamson (Gorman 82), Hornsbey. Subs not used: Mellanby, Lowes, Cowel.
Att: 3,203. Ref: R G Beeby (Northampton).

REPLAY DATES (7.45 unless stated): **Mon, Nov 23:** Stevenage v Runcorn. **Tue, Nov 24:** Exeter v Tamworth; Kidderminster v Plymouth; Leigh v Fulham (7.30); Rochdale v Scarborough; Slough v Macclesfield; West Auckland Tn v Yeovil Tn (7.30); York v Enfield.

SECOND-ROUND DRAW: Preston NE v Walsall; Darlington or Burnley v Man C; Scunthorpe Utd v Bedlington Ter; Kingstonian v L Orient; Swansea C v Stoke C; Fulham or Leigh RMI v Hartlepool; Hendon or Notts Co v Wigan Ath; Oldham v Brentford; Doncaster v R & Diamonds; Lincoln C v Runcorn or Stevenage Bor; Boreham Wd or Luton Tn v Hull C; Torquay Utd v Bournemouth; Wycombe Wndrs v Plymouth Argyle or Kidderminster Har; Macclesfield Tn or Slough v Cambridge Utd; Cardiff C v Hednesford Tn; Yeovil Tn or W Auckland Tn v Northampton Tn; Wrexham v Enfield or York C; Tamworth or Exeter C v Bristol Rvrs; Scarborough or Rochdale v Emley or Rotherham; Mansfield v Southport. To be played on the Dec 4, 5 and 6.

LEADING GOALSCORERS (total): **FA Carling Premiership: 11** Ricard (Middlesbrough). **10** Owen (Liverpool); Blake (Blackburn; nine for Bolton); Yorke (Man Utd). **9** Dublin (Aston Villa; four for Coventry). **8** Shearer (Newcastle). **7** Cottee (Leicester); Cole (Man Utd); Poyet (Chelsea). **Nationwide Second Division: 14** Stein (Bournemouth). **11** Asaba (Gillingham; one for Reading); Payton (Burnley); Cresswell (York); Goater (Man C). **10** Hayles (Bristol Rvrs); Horsfield (Fulham; eight for Halifax); Rammell (Walsall); Barlow (Wigan). **Third Division: 11** Forrester (Scunthorpe); Butler (Cambridge Utd). **10** Owusu (Brentford); Benjamin (Cambridge Utd). **9** Beech (Hartlepool). **8** Glover (Rotherham); Grazioli (Peterborough); Partridge (Torquay); Stevens (Carlisle).

Conference

CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheltenham	18	9	5	2	33	17	32
Stevenage	17	9	5	3	23	14	32
Kettering	18	9	5	4	22	13	32
R & D'monds	15	9	4	2	33	13	31
Kingstonian	16	8	4	4	26	22	28
Hereford	17	7	5	5	23	18	26
Hayes	15	8	2	5	19	19	26
Hednesford	15	6	6	3	20	17	24
Yeovil	16	6	6	4	22	20	24
Northwich	17	6	4	7	19	20	22
Kidderminster	16	6	3	7	23	18	21
Morecambe	17	6	3	8	26	35	21
Southport	15	5	5	5	22	22	20
Leek Town	16	6	1	9	26	23	19
Dover	15	4	6	5	13	15	18
Forest Green	16	4	5	7	20	24	17
Telford	15	4	5	6	15	22	17
Woking	15	4	4	7	18	21	16
Farnborough	16	4	3	9	19	32	15
Welling	17	2	8	7	15	26	14
Barrow	16	3	5	8	16	30	14
Doncaster	16	2	4	10	14	24	10

Scotland

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	14	9	3	2	28	8	30
Kilmarnock	14	6	6	2	18	10	24
Celtic	14	5	5	4	25	16	20
St Johnstone	14	5	5	4	17	21	20
Motherwell	14	4	5	5	13	20	17
Hearts	14	4	4	6	14	18	16
Dundee	14	4	4	6	13	20	16
Dundee Utd	14	3	5	6	13	17	14
Aberdeen	14	3	5	6	15	20	14
Dunfermline	14	2	8	4	12	18	14

Dundee (1) 1 Kilmarnock (1) 1
Annand 29 — Vareille 45
Dundee Langfield, Adamczuk (Coyne 86), Irvine, Raeside, Anderson, Annand, McInally (Rae 74), Falconer, McSkimming, Miller, Fleming (Rogers 85). Subs not used: Grady, Sutter.
Kilmarnock Marshall, MacPherson, Montgomerie, McGowne, Holt, Wright, Durrant, Mitchell, Vareille, Baker, Roberts. Subs not used: Mahood, Reilly, Hamilton, Burke, Strain.
Att: 4,249. Ref: J McCluskey (Stewarton).

Dunfermin (2) 2 Dundee Utd (1) 1
Tod 26, McCulloch 35 — Mathie 3
Dunfermline Butler, Shields, McCulloch, Tod, Ireland, Smith (Templeman 88), Johnson (Huxford 72), Edinho (Petrie 72), Squires, Graham, Ferguson. Subs not used: Westwater, Nish.
Dundee Utd Dykstra, Malpas, Jonsson, Patterson, Olofsson (Thompson 80), Zetterlund (Miller 70), Easton, Mathie, Dodds, Skoldmark (De Vos 55), Pascual. Subs not used: Combe, Paterson.
Att: 10,704. Ref: J Rowbotham (Kirkcaldy).

Motherwell (1) 3 Hearts (0) 2
Spencer 40, Coyle 68, 84 — Hamilton 69 (pen), Guerin 85
Motherwell Kaven, May (Ross 65), McMillan, McGowan, Brannan, Valakari, Coyle, Doesburg, Teale, Nevin (Adams 86), Spencer. Subs not used: Craigan, Ramsey, Bannister.
Hearts Rousset, McPherson, Naysmith, Weir, Fulton, Adam, Locke (Carricondo 79), Pressley, Murray (Quitongo 61), Guerin, McSwegan (Hamilton 61). Subs not used: Ritchie, Strang.
Att: 8,912. Ref: M Clark (Edinburgh).

Rangers (1) 2 Aberdeen (0) 1
Van Bronckhorst 8, Kanchelskis 82 — Jess 58
Rangers Niemi, Porrini, Numan, Hendry, B. Ferguson, Kanchelskis, Van Bronckhorst, Albertz (I. Ferguson 70), Wallace, Johansson (Guivarc'h 45), Wilson. Subs not used: Nicholson, Vidmar, Brown.
Aberdeen Leighton, Perry, Whyte, Smith, Hignett, Jess, Newell, Kiriakov (Hart 88), Anderson, Rowson, Winters. Subs not used: Inglis, Dow, Stillie, Wyness.
Att: 49,479. Ref: H Dallas (Motherwell).

St Johnstn (1) 2 Celtic (0) 1
Simao 45, McAnespie 78 — Larsson 51
St Johnstone Main, McQuillan, Dasovic, Kernaghan, Scott, O'Neil, Grant (Lowndes 73), Bollan, O'Halloran (McAnespie 29), Dods, Simao. Subs not used: Connolly, McCluskey, Ferguson.
Celtic Warner, Boyd, Mahe (McKinlay 65), McNamara, Larsson, O'Donnell, Donnelly, Hannah, Moravcik, Burchill, Riseth. Subs not used: Brattbakk, Jackson, McCondichie, McBride.
Att: 9,782. Ref: E Martindale (Glasgow).

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ayr	15	9	2	4	33	19	29
Hibernian	14	8	4	2	25	17	28
Airdrie	15	8	3	4	18	18	27
Falkirk	15	7	5	3	21	15	26
St Mirren	14	7	2	5	12	11	23
Clydebank	15	5	5	5	16	17	20
Hamilton	15	5	4	6	21	22	19
Gr Morton	15	3	3	9	13	16	12
Raith	15	2	5	8	12	23	11
Stranraer	15	3	1	11	13	29	10

Ayr (1) 4 Clydebank (0) 1
Hurst 42, 58; Lyons 84, Walker 87 — Robertson 78

Falkirk (1) 1 Raith (1) 1
Keith 22 — Dargo 24

Morton (0) 0 Airdrie (0) 0

Hamilton (1) 1 Stranraer (1) 2
MacFarlane 37 — Harty 10, G. Young 52

Hibernian P St Mirren P

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Livingston	15	10	4	1	29	16	34
Inverness CT	15	10	3	2	32	21	33
Clyde	15	7	4	4	22	17	25
Partick	15	7	1	7	17	17	22
Stirling	15	7	1	7	23	27	22
Alloa	15	6	3	6	34	22	21
East Fife	15	5	2	8	20	32	17
Arbroath	15	4	4	7	15	20	16
Queen of South	15	3	3	9	16	23	12
Forfar	15	2	3	10	14	27	9

Arbroath (1) 2 Livingston (1) 2
J. McGlashan 1, Arbuckle 61 — Deas 45, Bingham 51

Clyde (1) 2 Alloa (0) 1
McCusker 45 (pen), Convery 83 — McKay 60

East Fife (0) 1 Forfar (0) 0
Moffat 84

Queen Sth (1) 2 Inverness CT (1) 2
Eadie 34 (pen), Bailey 72 — Sheerin 32, McLean 74

Stirling Alb (1) 2 Partick (0) 0
Graham 37, Bone 78

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross County	15	11	0	4	41	18	33
Brechin	15	9	6	0	22	9	33
Stenhousemuir	15	8	3	4	22	14	27
Dumbarton	15	7	4	4	22	13	25
Albion	15	6	2	7	18	28	20
Queen's Park	15	4	4	7	19	21	16
Berwick	15	3	7	5	15	20	16
East Stirling	15	3	6	6	17	17	15
Cowdenbeath	16	4	2	9	14	27	14
Montrose	15	1	4	10	13	37	7

Albion (2) 3 East Stirling (1) 1
Diack 16, McLees 38, McStay 74 — Barr 39

Berwick (0) 3 Cowdenbeath (1) 1
Forrester 49, 73, Neil 85 — Hamilton 3

Dumbartn (1) 1 Brechin (1) 2
Flannery 37 — Dickson 45, Sorbie 54

Montrose (0) 0 Stenhousemr (0) 0

Ross Co (2) 5 Queens Park (1) 1
Tarrant 18 (pen), 48 (pen), 57, Ferries 33, Ferguson 84 (pen) — Carmichael 18

HIGHLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Cove Rangers 1 Peterhead 2; Huntly 2 Deveronvale 1; Lossiemouth 1 Buckie Thistle 0. **Postponed:** Clachnacuddin v Brora Rangers; Elgin City v Wick Academy; Forres Mechanics v Keith; Nairn County v Fort William; Rothes v Fraserburgh.

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Derry C 2 Sligo Rvrs 0; Finn Harps 6 Bray Wndrs 2; Shamrock Rvrs 0 Cork C 3.

IRISH LEAGUE: Premier: Cliftonville 2 Crusaders 3; Coleraine 0 Linfield 0; Glentoran 1 Newry 3; Omagh Tn 0 Glenavon 3; Portadown 1 Ballymena 3.

Scottish round-up

Riseth rants at 'unbelievable ref'

Patrick Glenn

VIDAR RISETH, the Norwegian midfielder turned emergency centre-half, launched an astonishing tirade at the referee Eric Martindale who he insisted must share the blame for Celtic's 2-1 defeat at St Johnstone.

Riseth accepted it was his error that set up the 78th-minute winner for Saints' Kieran McAnespie but then turned his anger on Martindale. He said: "I am not pleased because the defeat is my fault. What can I say? But he was unbelievable. For the first goal the referee gave a free-kick that was unbelievable. I have never seen such a bad referee in my career."

Celtic seem more likely to change head coaches than ownership in the near future in the wake of another damaging performance and result. The position of Jozef Venglos appears extremely vulnerable.

From the start of his career at Celtic, Venglos has not seemed to have the dynamism required at club level. Celtic have had problems with injury and suspension and were once again without important players such as Craig Burley, Paul Lambert, Alan Stubbs and Marc Rieper at McDiarmid Park on Saturday. But the defeat by opponents who had lost 7-0 to Rangers six days earlier was unacceptable to the club's huge support.

While it seems certain now that the managing director, Fergus McCann, will sell his shares next spring to fans and existing shareholders — rejecting the advances from the Kenny Dalglish-Jim Kerr consortium — he seems likely to be pushed into replacing Venglos long before.

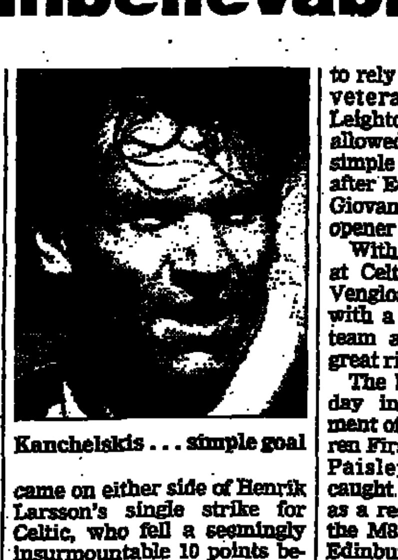
Miguel Simao and McAnespie's goals for St Johnstone came on either side of Henrik Larsson's single strike for Celtic, who fell a seemingly insurmountable 10 points behind Rangers in the Premier League.

The Ibrox side's 2-1 home win over Aberdeen was not impressive — the head coach Dick Advocaat said: "We did not play well" — as they had to rely on a blunder from the veteran goalkeeper Jim Leighton for their winner. He allowed Andrei Kanchelskis's simple shot through his legs after Eoin Jess had equalised Giovanni van Bronckhorst's opener.

With the Old Firm colliding at Celtic Park on Saturday, Venglos will have to come up with a positive charge if his team are not to trail their great rivals by 13 points.

The bizarre incident of the day involved the postponement of the Hibernian-St Mirren First Division match. The Paisley side's coach was caught in a huge traffic jam as a result of an accident on the M8 and could not get to Edinburgh on time. It is expected the match will be played tomorrow week.

The Hibernian manager Alex McLeish said: "This is a bitter disappointment for us but it was an act of God and nothing could be done."


Kanchelskis . . . simple goal

FA Cup round-up

Terriers slap five-figure fee on top scorer after Colchester rout

BEDLINGTON Terriers, the Northern League champions, have placed a five-figure transfer fee on John Milner, their 24-year-old leading scorer, after their 4–1 victory over Colchester, *writes Jeff Bowron.*

Milner, the only Terriers player on a contract, scored the second goal, his 26th of the season, as his side thoroughly enjoyed their maiden appearance in the first round.

"Milner is an exceptional talent," said Bedlington's joint manager Tony Lowery. "He's capable of playing First Division football and we won't stand in his way, but it will take between £50,000 and £100,000 to get him."

Bedlington's startling performance overshadowed Doncaster's unlikely 1–0 win at Southend. David Penney scored for the Conference's bottom side to earn a second-round home tie against Rushden and Diamonds, 1–0 winners over Shrewsbury.

Brian Talbot, Rushden's manager, was underwhelmed. "The FA Cup is a bit of fun, a spot of light relief from the important business of winning the Conference title this season," he said.

Hednesford disposed of Barnet 3–1 after going behind, Neil Davis, Ged Kimmins and Paul Carty scoring in a fightback that earned a trip to Cardiff.

Tamworth were within a minute of victory in a 2–2 draw at Exeter and it was the same score at Macclesfield, who had to come back from two down against Slough.

A great recovery by Enfield secured them a place in the second-round draw as York also tossed away a two-goal advantage.

Overseas round-up

Roma take the spoils as the most expensive team slips

THE Italian champions Juventus failed to capitalise on the defeat of the Serie A leaders Fiorentina as they were beaten 2–0 at Roma, *writes Adam Sills.*

Paulo Sergio and Vincent Candela scored for Roma, while Paulo Montero was sent off for elbowing Sergio.

Fiorentina, whose appeal against their expulsion from the Uefa Cup has been rejected, were beaten 4–2 by struggling Piacenza while the most expensive team in the world, Lazio, handed Venezia their first win, 2–0, since promotion.

Internazionale, despite being without Ronaldo who has a knee injury, beat Sampdoria 3–0 with the French international Youri Djorkaeff scoring twice.

Barcelona leapfrogged Real Madrid in the Spanish Primera Liga with a 4–1 victory over Tenerife. Celta Vigo, however, remain in first position after they won 2–1 in Madrid on Saturday.

In Germany, Bayern Munich, who face Manchester United on December 9 in the Champions League, stayed on top of the Bundesliga with their 10th win in 12 matches, a 2–0 victory over Stuttgart.

The midfielder Steffen Effenberg opened the scoring and the Iranian Ali Daei sealed Bayern's 10th win in 12 matches in the 90th minute. Stuttgart's Frank Verlaat was shown the red card for a foul on Lothar Matthäus, but never left the pitch, as a linesman indicated he had already stopped play a split second beforehand for offside.

Arsenal's next European opponents Lens, who play at Wembley in 10 days, failed to overcome Marseille, who extended their lead to four points in the French First Division with a 1–0 victory courtesy of Christophe Dugarry's 31st-minute goal.

Premiership

Arsenal 0 Tottenham Hotspur 0

Graham looking back to the future



David Lacey

SOMETIMES, in order to make teams harder to beat, it is necessary to make them harder to watch. In this respect the sound of the Arsenal crowd chanting "boring, boring Tottenham" after Spurs had forced a goalless draw at Highbury on Saturday must have been music to George Graham's ears.

In fact, the present Tottenham situation is far from boring, but as Graham sets about restoring the team to something like its former splendour there is bound to be a period of retrenchment which may make less than compelling viewing. After all, people can only watch foundations being dug for so long before starting to wonder what shape the actual building work will take.

For the moment Graham can bask briefly in the satisfaction of having made Spurs sufficiently resilient to thwart Arsène Wenger's Double-winning attack while seeing his own old Arsenal defence again provide evidence of its durability. After taking over at Highbury in 1986 Graham's first north London derby ended 0–0 and White Hart Lane would surely settle for even half of what followed.

The sight of Graham sitting on the visitors' bench at Arsenal was hardly a novelty. Since his dismissal in 1995, followed by a year's ban for accepting illegal payments on Scandinavian transfers, he had already returned three times with Leeds United in Premiership and FA Cup.

But whereas before Graham had been warmly greeted by supporters who remembered the two championships and string of cup successes won by Arsenal during his nine years as manager he now arrived to shouts of "traitor" and "Judas" from the sort of fans who worship shirts rather than people.

Sensible Arsenal followers still appreciate what Graham did for the club even if they regretted the manner of his departure and only an empty mind would think any less of his achievements simply because he is now in charge of their closest rivals. In any case, and as Graham pointed out: "I can't ask the fans to pick my job."

On Saturday's evidence Graham has lost none of his ability to organise players for a specific task and it was slightly ironic to find two Norwegians, Espen Baardsen and Steffen Iversen, the principal agents of Arsenal's frustration when one, Rune Hauge, had helped bring about his downfall as Arsenal manager. Baardsen's goalkeeping was inspired while Iversen's performance, in both attack and defence, epitomised the new willingness to work which Graham has brought to Tottenham's game.

With Darren Anderton curbing his attacking instincts to help Allan Nielsen block the forward runs of Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit, Spurs managed to disrupt Arsenal's passing in the first half and when Wenger's team achieved a better attacking momentum in the second they still could not produce a finish to beat Baardsen.

Graham clearly enjoyed his afternoon and completed it with one of those verbal sleights of hand which are the manager's stock in trade; Arsenal had been "outstanding" where his own team's performance "can be improved upon". In other words Tottenham had managed to hold superior opposition without realising their full potential.

The reality was that Arsenal performed vigorously and positively and created numerous scoring opportunities without ever playing outstandingly well. Dennis Bergkamp is off colour and off form and in his present condition only minimally missed. Yet Arsenal's increasingly frenetic attempts to break through Spurs' massed defence cried out for the subtle touches that Bergkamp at his best can provide.

In Bergkamp's absence Wenger began the match with Marc Overmars playing through the middle alongside Nicolas Anelka and until Overmars returned to the left wing for the last half-hour Arsenal's movements remained narrow and cramped. Even then they lacked sufficient presence in front of goal seriously to disturb Baardsen or the three centre-backs in front of him.

Anelka went into the match having scored six times in seven Premiership games but the young Frenchman is still not a natural taker of goals in the manner of an Ian Wright and when he produced a fierce first-time shot on the turn two minutes before half-time Baardsen made an equally instinctive save.

Fredrik Ljungberg wasted Arsenal's best opportunity early in the second half when, with Ramon Vega needing attention and the Tottenham defence momentarily in disarray, he was unmarked in the penalty area as he met Nigel Winterburn's centre but then failed to control the ball. "What can you say?" said the Arsenal manager later, "The spirit was there, the quality was there, everything was there for 90 minutes — Baardsen did the rest." Wenger praised Tottenham's disciplined defending while adding: "I thought it would be a physical Tottenham performance when I saw Ginola on the bench."

So far as the physical side went Spurs came off worse, with Nielsen's one of several cut heads. Nevertheless there must be uncertainties about David Ginola's future at Tottenham under Graham, who has never had much time for football's lilies of the field let alone a fleur-de-lis.

● Arsenal will be without their influential midfielder Emmanuel Petit for the Champions League game at home to Lens a week on Wednesday. Uefa have belatedly award the Frenchman a yellow card following a foul he committed in Arsenal's last game in Dynamo Kiev. At the time the match observer mistakenly registered the caution to Nigel Winterburn.



Stepping ahead . . . George Graham leading his Tottenham players into Highbury for Saturday's game PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Manchester United 3
Blackburn Rovers 2

Rush of blood powers United elbow

David Hopps

MANCHESTER United's patchwork duvet of a pitch was yesterday dug up and re-turfed, but even the original mediocre surface could only partially explain the drowsiness which brought a fake veneer of excitement to what had all the makings of another routine victory.

Blackburn's recovery from three goals down, after Tim Sherwood had foolishly got himself sent off, was spirited enough to suggest that the season is on the turn, but the manager Roy Hodgson was right when he summed it up as "just another glittering second prize". Their season has been full of them.

Football has little sense of morality these days, but that should not spare Sherwood. If his shifty ankle tap on David Beckham three minutes into the second half was bad enough, the elbow into the face as the player reasonably ran to protest was both peevish and unprofessional.

Hodgson should reflect upon the lack of self-control that has caused Blackburn to have five players sent off this season. Instead he was tempted by the notion that Beckham fell rather too easily. "Players do what they do and I am not prepared to moralise, but the last time someone put an elbow in my face it broke my nose," he said. Perhaps so, but a broken nose for Hodgson and a minor facial blemish for Beckham would probably cause the same psychological trauma.

"Sherwood has lifted his elbow but not elbowed anyone, and these days such a gesture is regarded as a sending-off offence," Hodgson continued. "It was an extremely minor incident, but as captain he should have known better.

"I'll probably fine him, but fines don't interest me. Fines don't make me feel any better and don't help us to win the three games when he is suspended. It's too bloody late."

Blackburn, their appetite sharpened by a midweek Worthington Cup defeat of Newcastle, equalled United in many areas but lost the match in a few well-crafted flashes. What Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole can conjure up in a trice looked entirely beyond Kevin Davies and Nathan Blake, an £11.5 million partnership that looked as excessively regarded as Wembley's twin towers.

Davies has not scored for Blackburn, although he would have ended that run after 35 seconds had not an offside flag against Blake ruled out his tap-in. Davies has been forced recently to operate as a lone striker, a role to which he is not suited, and to find himself playing alongside Blake amounts to pretty much the same thing.

Paul Scholes shot United ahead just after the half-hour after Dwight Yorke had caught Christian Dailly in possession 30 yards from goal. There was also a goal for Yorke by half-time, as Nicky Butt knocked on Beckham's low pass, a quick interchange around the edge of the area at which United currently excel.

Spared Cole's usual wastage rate — two good first-half chances passed him by — United's interval lead would have been more emphatic. Sherwood's dismissal was followed by Scholes's second goal, on the hour, an opportunity that was abetted by Yorke's subtle and streetwise obstruction of defenders.

It was only left to wonder how many United would score. Instead Dario Marcolin pulled a goal back, and Blake's header brought a second. At least that ensured that Old Trafford, more like a theatre audience than a football crowd on days like this, belatedly made a bit of noise.

Role reversal sees north London style swap

Vivek Chaudhary points out a common bond between the Arsenal and Spurs fans, whether they like it or not

IT WAS a day for turning north London tradition on its head. George Graham incurred the wrath of the Arsenal faithful, the Spurs contingent sang his name, if only for a few seconds, while the team in white defended solidly as the team in red attacked in vain.

Between them, both sets of fans found they had a common bond in Graham, whether they liked it or not. As one preview of the game put it, Graham returning to Highbury as Tottenham manager was a bit like John Wayne joining the Apaches.

The man himself did not take a seat in the directors' box, as he usually does, for the first half. "Judas, Judas," cried the Arsenal fans as Graham entered the lions' den oblivious to the chants. Both sets of fans were quite clear about how they felt about the other team but not quite clear how they felt about the second man to have managed both north London giants.

"I find it all quite amusing," said Deke Eichler, an Arsenal season-ticket holder. "It's a beautiful irony and that's what makes it funny.

"If they [Tottenham] had been doing really well then Graham managing them would make it more worrying. But we are the top dogs and Graham is not as good as he used to be."

"I've got a soft spot for George Graham and we should not have been booing him," said one Arsenal fan, Chris Greeve. "It was right that the club sacked him but he did a lot for us. It doesn't matter who he manages now."

For the Spurs faithful, Graham's arrival has meant undergoing a massive transformation in attitude towards him but not his former team.

"We're looking harder to beat. We have to put Tottenham's interests first," said Derek Ferguson.

"It doesn't matter who manages us as long as we don't lose to Arsenal," said Paul Mercer.

But it seems that things will never be quite the same. Arsène Wenger praised Tottenham's "discipline and hard work" while Graham praised Arsenal's "attack and flair".

Southampton 1 Aston Villa 4

Dublin faces sterner tests

Martin Thorpe

THE name on everyone's lips was, naturally, Dublin. But those seeking a more accurate yardstick for Villa's title aspirations should perhaps think of Manchester, London or Liverpool.

In the next 28 days United, Arsenal and Anfield's currently palsied crew will dock at Villa Park for the first time this season and it is the result of these three games rather than the five goals in the new striker's first two starts which is likely to offer a firmer fix on Villa's championship hopes.

This is not to detract from Dion Dublin's achievements, which are likely to be recognised by an England start on Wednesday.

Villa's £5.75 million signing has obviously added potency to the cause, but an opportunist punisher of lax defending is not going to win every match, especially against the likes of Arsenal and United.

As John Gregory looks to turn a club-record start of 12 League games undefeated into Villa's first championship trophy since 1981, these fixtures will test his side's other qualities. So it should be noted that there was a period in this match — seized on by the Southampton manager Dave Jones — when the Premiership leaders were more than matched by the bottom side.

After Dublin opened the scoring with a deftly-placed header on 2½ minutes, Villa struggled to find the invention to shake off Southampton's pressing game. They kept possession for long periods but too often were forced backwards to do so, despite the chirpy midfield promptings of Lee Hendrie.

Villa were perhaps thankful that Southampton equalised, the goal crafted and scored by the wonderfully jinking feet of Matthew Le Tissier eight minutes into the second half. With thoughts of beating the leaders driving their play, Jones's players surged forward on the attack. Within two minutes Ugo Ehiogu's attempted clearance from the impressive Stuart Ripley's cross whacked the Villa bar, encouraging Southampton to believe that this was the perfect tactic.

But in reality the Saints had merely forgotten their status — and their plan. In piling forward "they left the back door open again" bemoaned the beleagured Jones. Villa took full adavantage.

The type of penetrating run from midfield which England have lacked since Paul Gascoigne's demise helped restore the visitors' lead. Encouragingly it came from Hendrie, who hopes to start on Wednesday. Dublin curled in the lay-off past Paul Jones from 20 yards.

Goal No. 3 was sparked by Gareth Barry's quick ball out of defence to Stan Collymore, whose equally quick pass to Paul Merson was swept home by the England forward, and the fourth came near the end when Ehiogu nodded down Hendrie's corner and Dublin flicked the ball home.

● John Gregory has told Manchester United they can buy the goalkeeper Mark Bosnich for £1 million now.

The Australian, whose contract at Villa Park runs out at the end of this season, making him available on a free transfer, is a likely replacement for Peter Schmeichel and Gregory said: "If United are concerned about the Schmeichel situation and they want to win the Premiership, then they can have Bosie for one million quid."

Alex Ferguson retorted: "I will not be offering £1 million for Bosnich. We are in no rush."

Sudden impact

Dublin's first two games as a Villan

172 minutes on the pitch



Goals	5
Attempts on target	6
Attempts off target	3
Blocked shots	0
Passing	
Goal assists	0
Passes attempted	76
Success rate	66%
Crossing	
Crosses attempted	1
Success rate	0%
Defending	
Tackles attempted	5
Success rate	60%
Clearances, blocks	4
Discipline	
Fouls conceded	5
Offsides	2
Cards (yellow-red)	1-0

Chelsea 3 Wimbledon 0

Zola plays master of ceremonies

Russell Thomas

GIANFRANCO ZOLA was destined to score the most emotional goal of his Chelsea career, one combining supreme timing and the confidence of a performer from the highest class. "There's something that seems already written down," he said, looking puzzled at such providence.

It fell to the scorer of Chelsea's first goal to sprint to the dug-out and unveil Pierluigi Casiraghi's No. 10 shirt in tribute to the badly injured striker; Zola just knew he would be master of this ceremony. His team-mates swiftly joined a parade that was sincere and uplifting. The act mirrored Chelsea's football.

"I saw Gigi in hospital yesterday and he was not very well. But he sent his best wishes to me this morning and that was something that gave me drive and I was sure that I was going to play a good game," Zola said.

It was difficult to find an indifferent performer in a team that outclassed a Wimbledon side in robust health and previously prosperous form. If Chelsea individuals have to be singled out, Zola was the game's outstanding contributor, shading Tore Andre Flo, whose towering performance in his first Premiership start this season mocked his many omissions in the past.

Afterwards, Gianluca Vialli virtually acknowledged that this was the best Chelsea team he has selected. Yet the tribute to Casiraghi also revealed an uncomfortable truth: his replacement is a more suitable partner for Zola. Cruel accident rather than judgment, it seems, has ensured that Flo's time has finally come. Either that, or Vialli has a blessed touch as manager as well as a player.

Vialli later described Flo as "a lethal weapon" when deployed as substitute before embarking on a eulogy to the Norwegian as player and man. "He's going to be at this club for the rest of his career, I sincerely hope. He's got everything. I hope he's going to be a legend at Stamford Bridge."

The Scandinavian's extraordinary patience, Vialli conceded, has eased the manager's task. "Everybody wants Tore, in England and in Europe," he said, "but now you'll see him in Chelsea's starting line-up a lot." The tributes flowed on, at one point begging the question: Is he the best striker around? An amused Vialli pondered before reminding everyone: "Well, there's Gianfranco . . ." Vialli himself, of course, is statistically Chelsea's best striker but the manager will not be volunteering to extend that record. "I'm fit but I'm 34 and not just a player. With Gianfranco, I'm fully confident and Flo is so young and powerful. I hope the team, don't need me any more."

Wimbledon started and finished in full-frontal attack, only to founder time and again on a Chelsea back four with a distinct Gallic flavour; three Frenchmen and a Channel Islander.

Joe Kinnear's team were given a tutorial in touch, movement and vision. Flo unselfishly pulled the ball back for Zola to sweep instantly into the far corner for the first goal. Dan Petrescu set up Gustavo Poyet for an equally decisive finish, typifying the Uruguayan's work. The third, from Petrescu, was comparatively messy in execution but was nevertheless a goal distinguished by the quality of Zola's pass.

Kinnear, usually such a satisfied customer on his visits to the Bridge, left this time without delivering a verdict. Perhaps he did not want to state the obvious: his team had been destroyed by a Chelsea of genuine championship calibre.

Match stats

	Che	Wim
Possession	55%	45%
Attempts on target	11	1
Attempts off target	11	6
Corners	2	5
Fouls	8	11
Offsides	4	2
Bookings	1	2
Sendings-off	0	0

Charlton Athletic 1 Middlesbrough 1

Stamp proves the perfect substitute in Robson's template

Trevor Haylett

CONSIDERING the amount of criticism that came his way during Middlesbrough's last ill-fated Premiership season it is time to redress the balance on behalf of Bryan Robson. He now has a defence constructed on solid lines, the midfield blends flair with strength and no longer is there a fancy-dan foreigner playing to his own agenda.

Robson is also worthy of praise for solving the conundrum of what to do when Paul Gascoigne is unavailable. It is simple really: he takes Phil Stamp, a homegrown midfielder, persuades him to adopt the same hairstyle and body shape and, hey presto, no longer is there only one Paul Gascoigne.

The great one limped out of this encounter at half-time, the victim of a heavy first-minute challenge by Keith Jones but also embarrassed by the act of retribution which produced an opening goal from the penalty spot for Clive Mendonca. Enter the Gazza clone.

Headed goals have never formed a large part of the Gascoigne repertoire but rescuing missions have, and he would have been pleased to put his name to the header his replacement steered past Sasa Ilic. It came just when it looked as though Middlesbrough were running out of time in their attempt to take something from the game.

The strength of Middlesbrough's response to falling behind and the way they pinned Charlton in their own half left the home manager Alan Curbishly musing on whether he should be prepared to gamble a little more in an attempt to turn more draws into victories.

"In hindsight it would have been better to beat Leicester and to have lost today because then we would have gained one extra point," he said, "but what I'm trying to get across the players is that we have not been outplayed and have achieved three successive draws against teams who for various reasons were all feeling buoyant."

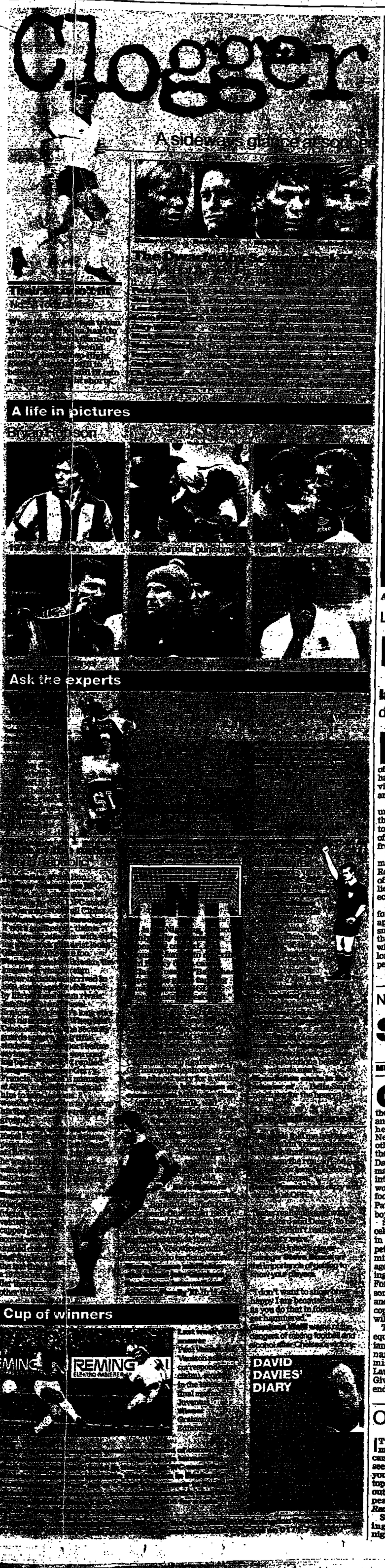
● Mikkel Beck said he was ready to leave Middlesbrough following the arrival of Brian Deane. The Danish striker is unhappy over being relegated to the substitutes' bench and complained: "If a club comes in for me I will talk to them. I have not talked to any club up to now but I cannot understand why I am on the bench. When I was dropped I was playing my best football."



Red mist . . . Beckham's fall

Clogger

A sideways glance at sport



A life in pictures

Bryan Robson

Ask the experts

Cup of winners

Premiership



Air conditioning . . . Leeds's Martin Hiden disputes possession with Karlheinz Riedle of Liverpool, for whom it was a third straight league defeat BEN RADFORD

Liverpool 1 Leeds United 3

Harsh reality hits Houllier hard

Ian Ross on a fruitless first outing for Liverpool's new managerial double-act, the team's third defeat at Anfield in eight days

LIKE anybody who finds himself pursuing a career in a profession with a high rate of failure, Gérard Houllier has come to appreciate the virtues of taking solace when and where you can find it.

He had to look hard on Saturday evening, though, but in the end he managed to scoop together just enough crumbs of comfort to keep the wolves from the door.

Forty eight hours after his managerial partnership with Roy Evans had gone the way of all things makeshift, Houllier's were the only excuses echoing around Anfield.

It cannot have been easy for him as he now probably appreciates that he has assumed control, at precisely the wrong time, of a club where the supporters have long memories and short tempers. Fate has not been kind.

Liverpool's third consecutive league defeat — and third defeat at home in the space of eight days — leaves them so far adrift of the Premiership's leading bunch that thoughts will already be turning toward summer and the removal of the dead wood.

As Houllier took his place at pitch-side before kick-off, an awkward few days finally behind him, a large banner bearing the legend "Thanks Roy" fluttered in the breeze beneath the Anfield Road stand. An empty car-park berth apart, it was the only reminder that the Evans era is over, until the team emerged that is.

Curiously the Frenchman seems to speak much better English now that Evans is no longer at his side nodding. "I now have a psychological job and a footballing job on my hands," he said.

Houllier is an endearingly honest man, one blinkered by understandable bias but endearingly honest none the less. Whether he will be as urbane and charitable if Liverpool's fall from grace is not swiftly arrested, we shall have to wait and see.

It does not seem likely that he will find the remedy to the club's ills in his coaching techniques or in the chest-thumping partisanship of his new assistant Phil Thompson, but rather in the chequebook of the chairman, David Moores.

"We do need new players," the manager admitted. Liverpool have problems in every department but particularly at the centre of midfield and defence, although Leeds left it late before reminding Houllier that he must find a centre-back who can tackle *and* pass.

In the centre circle, for that is now his exclusive domain, Paul Ince moaned and whinged his way through the entire afternoon without once threatening to make a meaningful contribution.

Actually, Liverpool could not have wished for more accommodating opposition than Leeds, who made little attempt to hide the fact that a goalless draw would have been just dandy.

The visitors should have been dead and buried once Robbie Fowler had steered home a 67th-minute penalty awarded after Nigel Martyn had clattered into Karlheinz Riedle.

The crucial moment came with 12 minutes remaining, when the referee Dermot Gallagher chose not to award the Merseysiders a second penalty when Jonathan Woodgate sent David Thompson sprawling in the box. As the Guv'nor and his mates stood around arguing, Leeds swept upfield and equalised, the 18-year-old substitute Alan Smith smashing home superbly with his first touch in senior football, after Robert Hopkins's shot had been blocked.

"That goal awakened in us some nightmare," said Houllier. "I knew that it would have dreadful consequences and it did." Six minutes later, after two precise finishes by the hitherto disgracefully lazy Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Leeds were coasting.

"I though it would be harder for us. I honestly did," said O'Leary. He might have been speaking for Messrs Houllier and Thompson.

● A foot injury has forced Leeds's defender Ian Harte to pull out of the Republic of Ireland's squad which flies out to Belgrade today to face Yugoslavia on Wednesday. Middlesbrough's Curtis Fleming has been called up as cover.

Match stats

	Liv	Lee
Possession	52%	48%
Attempts on target	4	6
Attempts off target	11	4
Corners	8	1
Fouls	16	13
Offsides	2	0
Bookings	2	3

Newcastle United 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1

Sub-plot tells sorry tale

Michael Walker

ONE sure sign of a bad afternoon is when the substitutions become the Talking Point. Sadly, after another mesmerisingly incoherent performance from Newcastle United and another early lead squandered, the fact that Alan Shearer, David Batty and Dietmar Hamann were either taken off or introduced meant that they would occupy the post-match focus — especially given what Pavel Srnicek, a returning old boy, had to say about it all.

Sheffield Wednesday, Srnicek's new club, also had subs in mind as Benito Carbone's petulant reaction to his 68th minute removal had his manager Danny Wilson answering questions about fines. Fortunately for Carbone, Wilson is a good man-manager — and one who knows how to cope with boys too. Carbone will not be made to pay.

The fact that Wednesday's equaliser came after the Italian's exit aided Wilson's magnanimity — Petter Rudi's mis-control cannoning off Laurent Charvet past Shay Given 10 minutes from the end — but then Wilson felt that anything less than a draw would have been "a travesty". He had a case, as Given made two good first-half saves and Andy Booth had what looked like a legal goal disallowed after 18 minutes.

It may not possess the familiar whiff of a Barnsley chop just yet, but Wilson may be mixing something that smells like team spirit. Wilson has admitted he has had to "make allowances" for players like Carbone, something that never arose at Oakwell, but he needs the Italian's class. With Manchester United and Chelsea next, he also needs unity of purpose.

Srnicek thinks Wednesday, collectively, are progressing. He inferred the opposite about his former club when he said: "I like to play for a team that doesn't rely on one man", referring to Shearer. The England captain did not reappear after half-time due to a tightening hamstring and his absence was noticeable. Srnicek said: "Newcastle rely on Shearer too much and when he hasn't got the ball they don't know what to do with it.

"Of course a team should have big stars," Srnicek went on, "but they should not be bigger than the team." Srnicek was not criticising Shearer's personality, more Newcastle's inability to maximise Shearer's talents. After 14 games in charge the responsibility for this would appear to be Ruud Gullit's. However, he chose to blame his inheritance — "a squad of players who were almost relegated".

In addition, Gullit said that too many of those players were competing for one position — central midfield. This led to Batty being dropped so that Hamann could play. But after 36 minutes Batty replaced the German "and showed he deserves to play".

But Batty is hardly a matchwinner and Newcastle rarely looked capable of adding to Paul Dalglish's first Premiership goal. The lack of common endeavour was marked and Gullit is far from delivering on the S-word.

Moreover, the Dutchman now concedes that the incoming players who were "in cold storage" six weeks ago are now in the freezer cabinet, untouchable. Gullit has to make do with what he has — although as he pointed out, at least they have some experience of a relegation battle.

Oh !?*& it's time to watch Match of the Day

IT WAS that sort of moment every football fan can identify with. The match seems to be going so well, you think you are safely on top of things and then without warning everything goes pear-shaped, *writes Mark Redding.*

Sue Thearle had that sinking feeling on Saturday night. It was only her second Match of the Day, on secondment from the BBC's News 24 channel, she was securely launched into her commentary on the FA Cup tie between Basingstoke Town and Bournemouth, and then disaster struck.

"The Ryman League side gave the visitors a second-half . . . "Oh shit!" she said, and off went the sound.

Yesterday the BBC was all apologies. "It was not Sue's fault," a spokesman said contritely. "The programme had to be put together very quickly and Sue's first take was used instead of her second one." The offending segment was corrected before Match of the Day was re-transmitted at 7am yesterday morning.

West Ham United 3 Leicester City 2

Little Frank has big ambitions

Mark Redding

SOMEWHERE in the northern wastes beyond Birmingham there is a comedian called Frank Sidebottom who "entertains" audiences with a glove-puppet sidekick known as Little Frank.

Their one-joke act consists of taking a well-known ditty and then adding the word Timperley, thereby making a rendition of a song such as Waterloo Sunset into the supposedly hilarious Timperley Sunset.

Well now he is about to be upstaged. East London has its own version of Big Frank and Little Frank, similarly singing from the same songsheet but this time with an air of deadly seriousness. The subject of their refrain: the absence of Little Frank from the full England squad to face the Czech Republic on Wednesday.

Frank Lampard junior, for it is he, took on Leicester City with the righteous fervour of a man who had a point to prove and it was largely down to his driving passion in midfield that West Ham are occupying sixth place in the Premiership.

But if it was galling to see the less forceful Lee Hendrie and the injured Emile Heskey given their first call-ups ahead of him, Lampard was not the sort of player to let him get it down.

"I'm not a sulker," he said. "I've got a lot of years in front of me and at 20 the fact that I've been noted for England is very encouraging."

It would seem that Lampard is the sort of creative midfielder Glenn Hoddle's side are in desperate need of at the moment. But after being tipped to make the senior squad, he will instead have to console himself with an appearance for the Under-21s at Ipswich, probably as captain. Lampard, however, has no doubts where his real priorities lie. "I want to play for England as soon as possible because I'm very ambitious," he stressed.

After falling behind to an early goal from the West Ham fan Muzzy Izzet, it was Lampard's relentless running and probing that gradually gave the Irons the upper hand and he was eventually rewarded with a goal.

His swerving shot in the 76th minute provided West ham with a 3–1 lead and sufficient breathing space to still run out victors after an own goal by the same player just before the end.

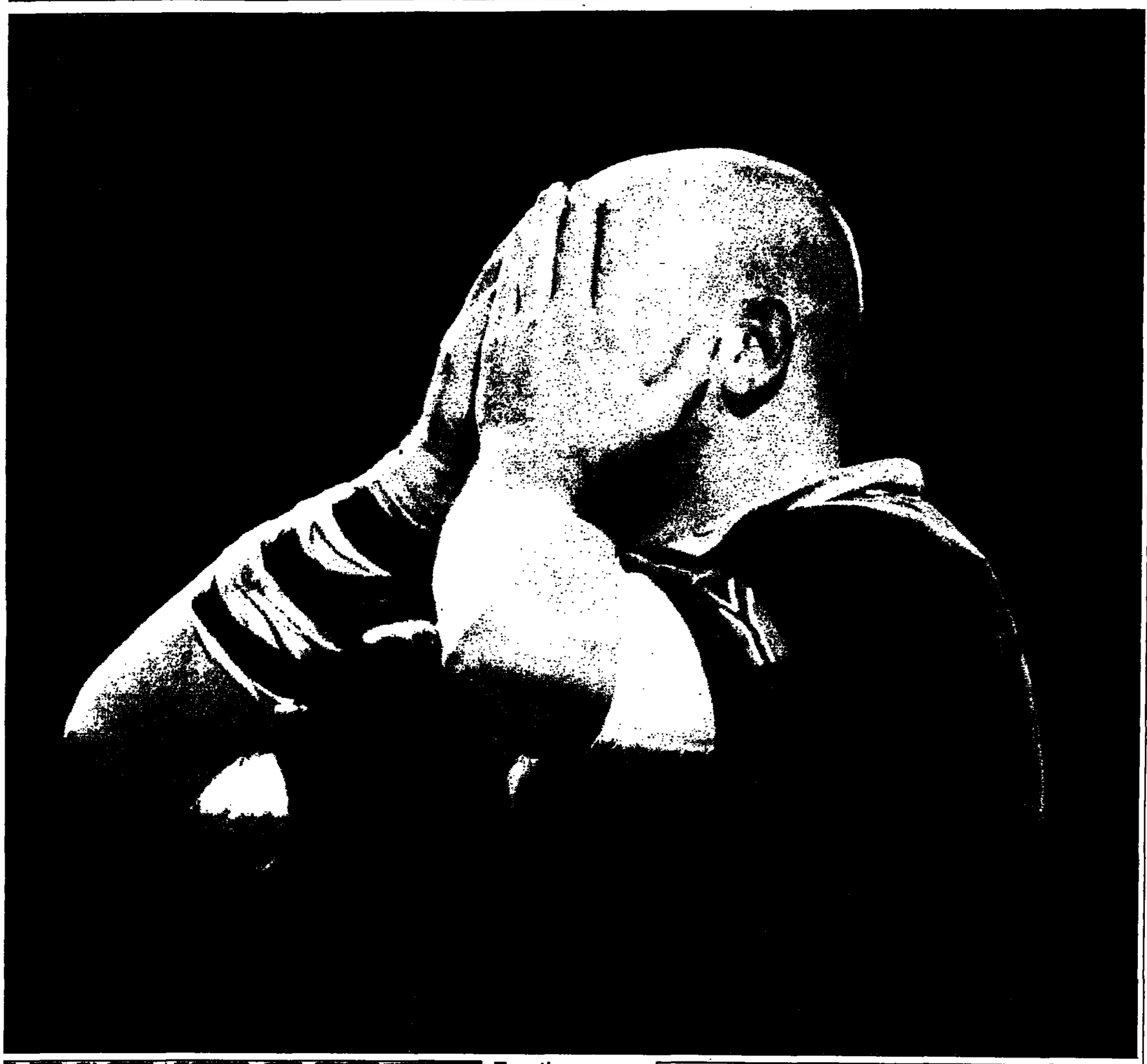
"He was disappointed not to be called up and he said to me last night, 'I'm going to go out and have a real go,'" Frank Lampard senior, who is also West Ham's assistant manager, confided afterwards.

"Do I think he's ready for England? It's only a matter of time. He's one of those lads that whenever you ask him to step up a grade he can take it on board."

A weakened Leicester, missing Heskey and Tony Cottee, were always going to have difficulty and after their old boy Paul Kitson equalised in the 37th minute they were up against it. Steve Lomas's deflected shot gave the Hammers the lead 11 minutes into the second half and suddenly Europe was back on the East End agenda.

The Guardian
Sport
Monday November 16 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

A weekend of cheers, tears and loathing



Hoddle to give Dublin a Czech call

David Lacey

DION DUBLIN looks certain to lead the England attack in Wednesday's friendly against the Czech Republic at Wembley. The only question concerns the identity of his partner up front.

Glenn Hoddle was probably planning to give the 29-year-old Dublin a game even before a hat-trick at Southampton on Saturday brought his total since joining Aston Villa from Coventry City to five goals in two matches; now the England coach has little option.

The strained hamstring Alan Shearer suffered during Newcastle United's match against Sheffield Wednesday has ruled out the England captain and his withdrawal, coupled with the ankle injury which denied Leicester City the services of Emile Heskey at West Ham, looks like reducing Hoddle's choice of strikers to three. He had already lost Michael Owen and Teddy Sheringham before announcing the squad.

Dublin, therefore, is set to win his fourth cap, having appeared earlier this year in World Cup warm-ups against Chile at Wembley and Morocco and Belgium in Casablanca. His chances of making the squad for France improved once Ian Wright had been ruled out with a hamstring injury but in the end Hoddle preferred Les Ferdinand's greater international experience.

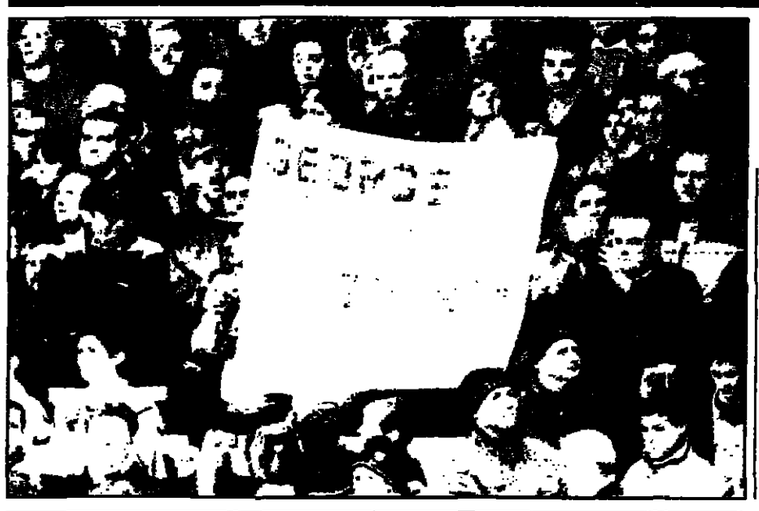
Now Wright, playing well for West Ham at the age of 35, appears to have a better chance off an England recall than Robbie Fowler, 12 years younger but at present sharing the Liverpool malaise.. Whatever happens, the loss of Shearer will make Wednesday's match less meaningful in terms of England's preparations for the crucial European Championship qualifying match against Poland at Wembley in March.

The friendly against France, the World Cup holders, in February will be rather more relevant in that respect, but Hoddle still needs a good result now after England's faltering start to the Euro 2000 qualifiers. The Czech game, moreover, will lack meaning if he does not field a recognisable England team.

With Paul Scholes, who like Shearer has played in England's last seven matches, another doubtful starter after a weekend of twanging hamstrings, Hoddle may seize the opportunity to remind Paul Merson that he still has a role to play at international level. He has remained on the fringe since replacing an exhausted Scholes against Argentina in the World Cup after David Beckham's dismissal. Last March Merson had started an England game for the first time in nearly four years.

Gareth Southgate will join up with the England squad later today because he wants to be present at the birth of his first child, due to be induced this morning.

Martin Thorpe, page 18



Emotions run high as Wales champion the underdog cause

Craig Quinnell, top, holds his head in despair after an inspired Wales side almost pulled off the surprise of the season against the world champion Springboks. Ian Malin and Paul Rees at Wembley, page 13.

No such disappointment at Bedlington, right, where the giant-killing Terriers gave Second Division Colchester an FA Cup mauling. At Highbury, however, there were few smiles to greet George Graham's "traitorous" return with Tottenham. David Lacey, page 18.

PHOTOGRAPHS: NEAL SIMPSON, WILL WALKER, TOM JENKINS



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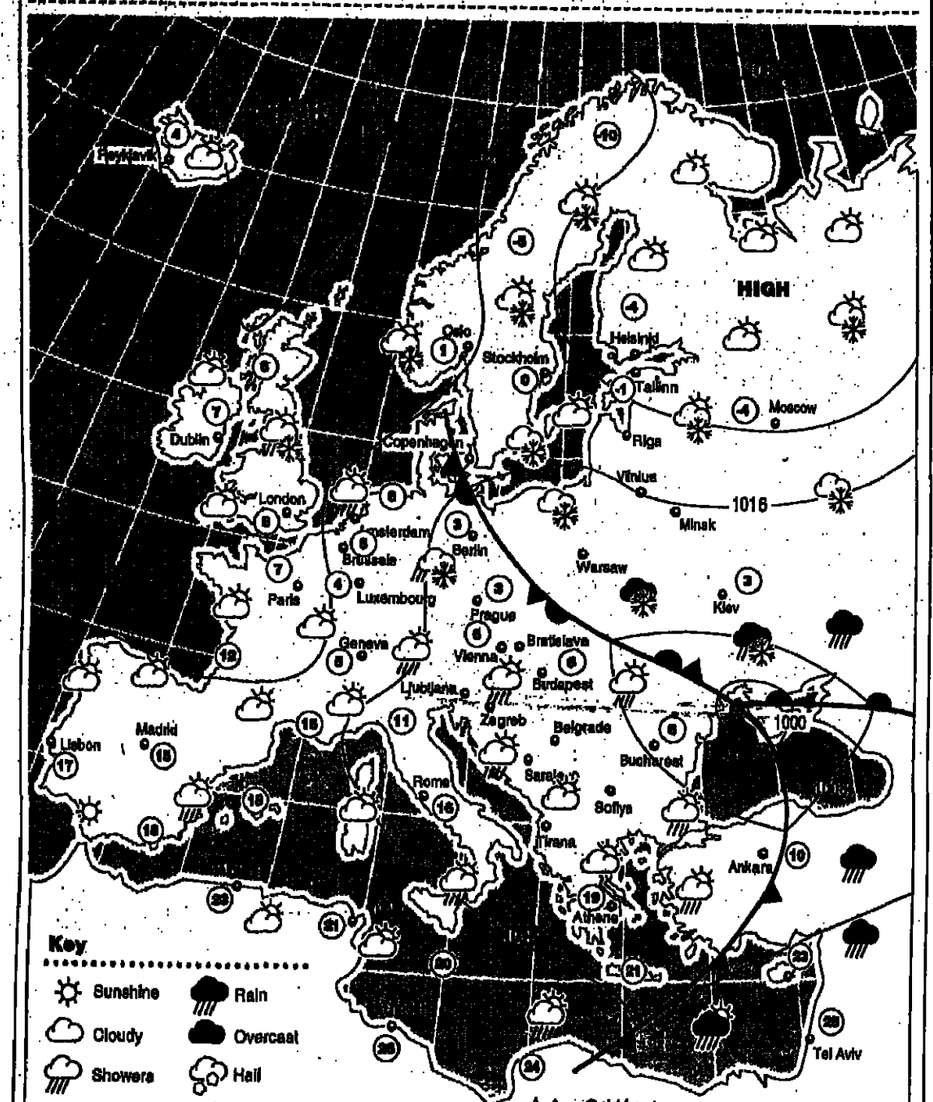
ULTRA IS LOW IS SILK CUT ULTRA

SMOKING WHEN PREGNANT HARMS YOUR BABY

Chief Medical Officers' Warning Low Tar & Low Nicotine

هكذا من الأصل

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	23	10	F
Amsterdam	8	1	Sh
Athens	18	12	F
Berlin	3	0	Sf
Bonn	8	-2	Sh
Brussels	9	0	Sh
Copenhagen	3	-1	Sf
Crete	21	14	Sh
Geneva	5	0	F
Lanzarote	21	15	F
London	8	-1	F
Madrid	15	3	S
Milan	12	0	F
Nice	15	8	F
Oslo	1	-3	Sf
Paris	7	1	F
Rome	16	5	F
Stockholm	0	-3	F
Tunis	21	13	F
Vienna	5	0	Sh

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	21	10	F
Amsterdam	8	1	Sh
Athens	19	14	S
Berlin	3	-1	Sf
Bonn	5	-2	Sh
Brussels	6	-1	F
Copenhagen	4	0	Sf
Crete	22	15	S
Geneva	5	-1	C
Lanzarote	23	14	Sh
London	8	-1	F
Madrid	15	4	S
Milan	14	1	S
Nice	16	7	S
Oslo	0	-5	S
Paris	7	0	F
Rome	16	3	F
Stockholm	0	-3	C
Tunis	20	12	F
Vienna	4	-1	R

Wednesday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	21	9	Sh
Amsterdam	6	2	H
Athens	18	13	F
Berlin	3	-1	Sf
Bonn	5	-2	Sh
Brussels	8	1	Sh
Copenhagen	4	-1	C
Crete	23	13	S
Geneva	4	-2	F
Lanzarote	23	13	F
London	8	1	F
Madrid	13	2	S
Milan	12	0	S
Nice	14	6	F
Oslo	0	-3	Sn
Paris	8	0	F
Rome	13	3	Sh
Stockholm	-1	-4	C
Tunis	19	11	Sh
Vienna	5	-1	

Thursday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	17	8	Sh
Amsterdam	7	2	Sh
Athens	16	11	Th
Berlin	2	-3	Sn
Bonn	3	-1	C
Brussels	6	1	Sh
Copenhagen	3	-1	F
Crete	20	13	S
Geneva	4	-2	F
Lanzarote	24	14	F
London	8	1	F
Madrid	12	-1	S
Milan	10	0	S
Nice	13	5	S
Oslo	-2	-6	F
Paris	7	1	D
Rome	13	2	Sh
Stockholm	-1	-6	C
Tunis	18	9	F
Vienna	4	-3	C

C, cloudy; D, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sh, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day)

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

		max	min
Alexdia	F	15	69
Algiers	C	22	72
Alicante	C	16	66
Amsterdam	F	9	48
Athens	F	19	66
Auckland	C	17	63
B Aires	C	27	81
Bahrain	S	30	86
Bangkok	F	31	88
Barcelona	C	14	57
Beijing	S	15	59
Belgrade	C	8	46
Berlin	Dr	2	36
Bermuda	C	22	72
Biarritz	Sh	13	55
Bombay	F	31	88
Bordeaux	C	12	54
Boston	C	7	45
Brussels	R	6	43
Budapest	Sl	2	36
Cairo	S	26	77
Calcutta	C	29	84
Cape Town	C	20	68
Casablanca	F	20	68
Chicago	C	12	54
Copenhagen	C	2	36
Corfu	Th	18	64
Dallas	C	17	63
Dhaka	F	31	88
Dublin	S	8	43
Faro	F	18	64
Florence	S	12	54
Frankfurt	R	5	41
Funchal	Sh	22	72
Geneva	Sh	5	41
Gibraltar	C	21	70
Harare	C	17	63
Hong Kong	F	27	81
Innsbruck	C	4	39
Istanbul	C	13	55
Joburg	F	28	82
K Lumpur	C	31	88
Kingston	S	31	88
Lamaca	Sh	20	68
Lima	C	22	72
Lisbon	C	18	59
London	C	8	46
Los Angeles	S	23	73
Luxembourg	R	4	39
Madrid	C	14	57
Majorca	C	17	63
Malaga	C	21	70
Malta	S	21	70
Melbourne	C	18	64
Mexico City	F	22	72
Milan	C	27	81
Milan	S	10	50
Montreal	C	6	43
Moscow	S	-9	16
Munich	R	4	39
Nairobi	C	25	77
Naples	F	17	63
New Delhi	S	25	77
New Orleans	R	23	73
New York	F	13	55
Nice	S	16	61
Oporto	C	16	61
Oslo	F	-1	30
Paris	F	9	48
Perth	S	28	77
Prague	C	1	34
Reykjavik	C	0	32
Rhodes	F	19	66
Rio de Jan.	C	25	77
Rome	S	16	61
Sarajevo	Sh	9	48
Singapore	C	29	84
Stockholm	M	0	32
Strasbourg	C	7	45
Sydney	C	25	77
Tel Aviv	S	24	75
Tenerife	S	23	82
Tokyo	S	20	68
Toronto	C	9	48
Tunis	C	20	68
Vancouver	R	10	50
Venice	M	8	46
Vienna	F	6	43
Warsaw	C	1	34
Washington	F	13	55
Wellington	S	15	59
Zurich	Sh	4	39

European weather outlook

Scandinavia

Cold everywhere with a mixture of sunshine and showers. The showers prolonged in the south where they will be a mixture of sleet and rain. Further north the showers will be wet scattered but fall as snow. Max temps will range from 3C (37F) at the warmest in the south to -11C (12F) in the far north.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

Chilly with sunny spells and scattered showers. The showers wintry at times, especially in the east where there is the risk of significant snow falls. The showers further west will be mainly of rain with the best of any sunshine between the showers here. Max temps generally in the range of 3-6C (37-43F).

France

A cold frosty start to the day in northern and central parts with the risk of fog patches which will be slow to clear. There will however be some decent sunny spells developing in most parts with only a slight risk of a light shower in the north and east. Max temps ranging from a cold 5C (41F) in the north-east to 15C (61F) on the south coast.

Spain and Portugal

Some decent sunshine for most parts but it will be a cold start to the day in central Spain. Showers are also likely to break out along the Mediterranean coasts but the Costa Brava will escape dry. Max temps generally 14-20C (57-68F).

Italy

Sunny spells and the risk of a shower, the showers mainly in southern and central parts. Max temps 11C (52F) in the north and 16-20C (61-68F) in central and southern parts.

Greece

Sunny spells but also a scattering of showers. Max temps 18-21C (64-70F).

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am Bookroom Breakfast. 9.00 BBC Breakfast News. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.40 Style Challenge. 11.05 City Hospital. 11.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 12.00 Real Rooms. 12.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 1.00 Pass the Buck. 1.30 Getting for a Song. 1.55 The Weather Show. 2.00 One O'Clock News. 2.30 Regional News and Weather. 2.40 Neighbours. 3.05 Inside. 3.55 Wipeout. 4.25 Children's BBC: Playbus. 4.40 Smithfield Live: The Magic of the Faraway Tree. 4.55 Little Monsters. 5.05 The Animal Magic Show. 5.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks. 5.20 Goosebumps. 5.00 Newsround. 5.15 Blue Peter. 5.55 Neighbours. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.30 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 This Is Your Life. 8.30 Here and Now. 9.00 EastEnders. 9.30 Birds of a Feather. 10.00 Nine O'Clock News. 10.30 Ab Fab: The Collection. 11.00 Panorama. 11.40 They Think It's All Over. 12.10 On Stile. 12.40 Chicago Hope. 1.40 World Science. 2.05 FILM: The Hellfire Club. 3.50 Weather. 3.55 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.45am Aubrey. 7.50 The World's Best Athletic? 8.00 Children's BBC: Tales of Aesop. 8.05 Teletubbies. 8.30 Tom and Jerry Kids. 8.50 Blue Peter. 9.00 Robinson Bruce. 9.45 Penny Crayon. 9.55 Tales of Aesop. 10.00 Daytime on Two: Job Bank. 10.10 Short Circuit. 10.30 Writing and Pictures. 10.45 Storytime. 11.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 11.30 Daytime on Two: Words and Pictures. 11.45 Cats' Eyes. 12.00 Look and Read. 12.20 Zig Zag. 12.40 Landmarks. 1.05 History File. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 Children's BBC: Penny Crayon. 2.10 Sophie Grigson's Herbs. 2.15 The History Hour. 3.15 Top Gear Motorsport. 3.45 News; Regional News and Weather. 3.50 On Cue. 4.35 News; Regional News and Weather. 4.50 Gardeners' World. 5.20 Change That. 5.35 Ready, Steady, Cook. 6.05 Level 3. 6.30 Celebrity Today's the Day. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.30 Specs Appeal. 8.00 Hi, Mike or Maybe. 8.30 Sound Stories. 9.00 The Essential Guide to Rocks. 9.30 Food and Drink. 10.00 The Cops. 10.30 Ade Inflation. 11.00 Big Train. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.30 Video Nation Shorts. 12.35 The Baby Business. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 Dispatch Box. 1.30 Learning Zone: The Growing Child: Babies' Minds. 7.00 Glasdown.

BBC Prime

Eutelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Budget and Badger. 7.40 Blue Peter. 8.05 Stoppers. 8.30 Hot Chefs. 8.45 Ready, Steady, Cook. 9.10 Style Challenge. 9.40 Change That. 10.30 Kilroy. 10.45 Classic EastEnders. 11.15 Songs of Praise. 11.50 Hot Chefs. 12.05 Rick Stein's Fruits of the Sea. 12.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.30 Change That. 1.55 World Weather. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.30 Classic EastEnders. 3.00 Kilroy. 3.45 Style Challenge. 4.05 World Weather. 4.15 Hot Chefs. 4.30 Jackanory Gold. 4.45 Blue Peter. 5.05 Stoppers. 5.30 Wildlife. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 7.00 Classic EastEnders. 7.30 Rick Stein's Fruits of the Sea. 8.00 Firefly Towers. 8.30 Waiting for God. 9.00 Babyblessings!. 9.30 Meetings with Remarkable Trees. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 The Antiques Show. 11.00 Top of the Pops 2. 11.40 The O Zone. 12.00 Shadow of the Noose. 12.50 World Weather. 1.00 Poets on Poetry.

BBC World

Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.30 World Living: Earth Report. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 Hardtalk. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: Top Gear. 11.55 World City Guides. 12.00 The World Today. 12.30 World City Guides. 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 2.00 World News. 2.30 World Business Report and Weather. 2.50 The World Today. 3.30 World Living: Future Fantastic. 3.55 World City Guides. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 World Focus: QED. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Earth Report. 6.55 World City Guides. 7.00 The World Today. 7.30 Hard Talk. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 World Focus: QED. 9.30 World City Guides. 10.00 World News. 10.10 World Business Report and Weather. 10.30 World Living: Fenian Your Seat Belt. 11.00 World News. 11.10 Europe Direct. 11.55 World City Guides. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today and Weather. 12.55 World City Guides. 1.00 World News and Weather. 1.30 World Living: Earth Report. 2.00 News and Weather. 2.30 Asia Today. 2.45 World Business Report. 2.55 World City Guides. 3.00 News and Weather. 3.30 USA Direct. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Asia Today. 4.45 World Business Report. 5.00 News and Weather. 5.30 USA Direct. 6.00 News and Weather. 6.30 World Focus: QED. 8.30 World City Guides.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 10.00 Start the Week. 10.45 (FM) Serial: Mental Cruelty - A Celebration. 10.45 (LW) Daily Service. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 12.00 East End Lore. 12.30 Nemesis. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.05 News. 1.06 Yes and Yours. 2.00 The World at One. 2.30 Round Britain Quiz. 3.00 The Archers. 3.15 Afternoon Play: Life's Little Ironies. 4.00 Money Box Live: (0171 580 4444. 4.30 Rewrged. 4.45 Rewrged 5.00 The Food Programme. 5.30 Turning World. 6.00 PM. 6.54 Shipping Forecast. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.30 The Motion Show. 8.00 The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Still Waters. 9.00 Managing Life. 9.30 Analysis. 10.00 Nature: Bees in the Desert. 10.30 Start the Week. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes. 12.00 Radio 4 Appeal. 12.03 Late Night on 4: Kaliyard Blues. 12.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. 12.30 (FM) Aerial Views. 1.00 News. 1.30 The Late Book: A Man in Full. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 5.20 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

6.00am News. 6.10 Off the Shelf: Hemingway Short Stories. 6.30 The Vintage Chart Show. 6.50 News. 6.50 Pause for Thought. 6.55 Pop on the Line. 10.00 News; (FM only) News in German. 10.05 World Business Report. 10.15 Sacred News. 10.30 Westway Access. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Omnibus. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Jazzmatazz. 1.00 News. 1.05 World Business Report. 1.15 Britain Today. 1.30 Seven Days. 1.45 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 News. 2.35 Outlook. 2.50 Chill Out. 4.00 World News; (FM only) News in German. 4.05 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Westway Access. 4.50 Play Me a Question. 5.00 News. 5.05 Seven Days. 5.30 (FM only) News in German. 5.40 Britain Today. 5.50 Europe Today. 6.00 World Business Report. 6.45 Sports Roundup. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 Birth of Britain 1000; (FM only) News in German. 8.00 News Summary. 8.04 Outlook. 8.05 Pause for Thought. 8.20 Hallmark Hit List. 8.30 Newsdesk. 10.00 News. 10.04 World Business Report. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 Heritage. 10.45 Newsdesk. 11.00 Insight. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.05 Outlook. 12.20 Hallmark Hit List. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Seven Days. 2.45 Wood, Gate and Brass. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 On Screen. 4.00 News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.30 The Kiss of the City. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 The World Today.

Sky Premier

Astra

7.00 The Princess Bride. 8.50 Lies He Told. 11.00 The Santa Clause. 1.00 The Princess Bride. 3.00 Lies He Told. 4.50 Barry Norman's Film Night. 5.00 The Santa Clause. 7.00 Angels in the Attic. 9.00 The Odyssey. 11.50 Sleepers. 1.50 A Thin Line Between Love and Hate. 3.45 Original Gangstas. 5.30 Angels in the Attic.

Sky MovieMax

Astra

7.00 Seasons of the Heart. 8.50 Family Blessings. 10.50 Alaska. 12.00 Where the Red Fern Grows. 2.00 Where the Red Fern Grows: Part Two. 4.00 Seasons of the Heart. 5.00 Family Blessings. 6.50 Alaska. 10.20 Voice of Deception. 12.00 Kiss of a Stranger. 1.50 Hard Man. 3.35 Breaking the Waves.

Sky Cinema

Astra

7.00 Term of Trial. 9.00 The Short Windmill. 11.00 The Front Page. 12.45 Mr Majestyk. 2.30 The Yeamin Latte. 4.30 King Kong.

Sky Sports

Astra

8.00 Football: Coventry City v Everton. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 10.30 Athletics. 11.00 Football: Dordermine Athletic v Dundee United. 12.00 Football: FA Cup First Round Replay. 1.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 1.30 What a Weekend. 2.00 Football: Coventry City v Everton. 3.30 Football: Scottish Primera Liga. 4.30 What a Weekend. 5.00 Post World Masters. 7.00 Sports Centre. 7.30 What a Weekend. 8.00 Football: Nottingham Forest v Derby County - Live. 11.15 Sports Centre. 11.30 Football League Review. 12.30 V-Max. 1.00 Sports Centre. 1.15 Football: Nottingham Forest v Derby County. 3.45 Football League Review. 4.45 Sports Centre. 4.50 Close.

Sky Sports 3

Astra

1.00 NFL American Football: New York v Green Bay. 4.30 Motorsport: NASCAR Jiffy Lube. 5.00 V-Max. 7.00 Post The Duel '98. 8.00 Fish TV. 9.00 World Wrestling. 9.30 WWF Wrestling: Survivor Series. 12.30 Close.

Eurosport

Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Biathlon: World Cup. 10.00 Weightlifting. 11.30 Rugby Union. 1.00 Motorcycling. 2.00 Triathlon. 2.30 Adventure: X Terra. 3.00 Weightlifting. 5.00 Motorsport: Indy Car Season Review. 6.30 Tennis: Senior Tour of Champions - Live. 8.00 Extreme Sports: Youth Only Zone. 9.00 Tractor Pulling. 10.00 Football: Eurogoals. 11.30 Tennis: Chase Championships - Live. 1.00 Adventure. 1.30 Close.

Sky 1

Astra

8.00 Earthworm Jim. 8.30 The Simpsons. 9.00 The Simpsons. 9.30 Hollywood Squares. 10.00 Birds - Surviving Life. 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 1.00 Jenny Jones. 1.55 The Specials' K Collection. 2.00 Days of Our Lives. 2.55 The Specials' K Collection. 3.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 3.55 The Specials' K Collection. 4.00 Jenny Jones. 4.55 The Specials' K Collection. 5.00 Birds - Surviving Life. 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Married...With Children. 7.30 Friends. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 The Tick. 9.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 10.00 Sliders. 11.00 South Park. 11.30 Seinfeld. 12.00 Friends. 12.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 1.30 Renegade. 2.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

Astra

8.00 Dinosaurs. 10.00 Natural Born Killers: Komodo Dragons. 11.00 Mountain Barrier. 12.00 Beyond the Clouds. 1.00 Sex, Lives and Holes in the Skies. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

Astra

8.00 Crossroads. 8.30 Neighbours. 8.55 EastEnders. 9.40 The Bill. 10.00 The Bill. 10.30 Benjamin. 11.30 Angels. 12.00 Dallas. 12.55 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 Juliet Bravo. 3.00 Dallas. 3.55 The Bill. 4.25 The Bill. 4.55 Benjamin. 5.25 EastEnders. 5.50 Angels. 7.00 Due South. 8.00 May to December. 8.40 It Ain't Hot Hot, Mum. 9.30 Dad's Army. 10.00 Voice of the Heart. 11.50 Sports Annual of the Year. 12.35 The Bill. 12.55 The Bill. 1.25 The Chief. 2.15 Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test. 2.50 Live at the Jongleurs. 3.35 Shopping With Screenshop.

Discovery

Astra/Intelsat

8.00 First Flights. 8.30 Ancient Warriors. 7.00 Animal Doctor. 7.30 Wild Discovery: Ultimate Guide. 8.30 Beyond 2000. 10.00 Raging Planet. 11.00 Hidden Agendas: Breaking the Sound Barrier. 12.00 A Spitfire's Story. 1.00 The Great Egyptians. 2.00 First Flights. 2.30 Wheel Nuts. 3.00 Close.

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G2 EUROPE

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Is this the new capital of Europe?

Neal Ascherson on Berlin's bid for greatness

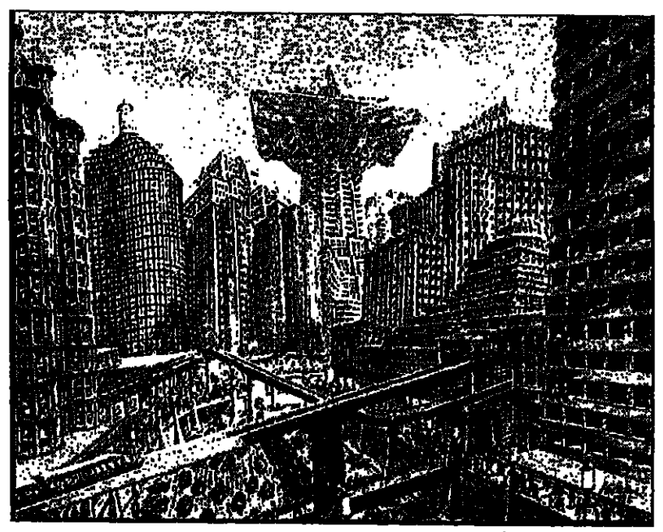


PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL LANGROCK

All roads lead to Berlin

It is the biggest building site on the continent. They are hard at work on Europe's greatest railway station and the government is moving in soon. **Neal Ascherson** on the monster rising from the Prussian sands





The new Metropolis? Building work is transforming the city (above, reconstruction at the Reichstag) and (left) Fritz Lang's vision of Berlin, the city of the future

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL LANGSTOM

Berlin, capital of Germany. That we know about. But Berlin, capital of Europe? The world has not yet got in focus the monster now emerging from the Prussian sands.

Nobody really knows how big the city will become. Nobody quite meant the decision to build a new centre of German government to gather speed and become the founding of a new international megalopolis. But that is what is happening.

Germany will be the heartland, the engine-room, of a united Europe in the 21st century. Our currency, the euro, will be run from Frankfurt. But Berlin may come to be the focus of European culture and politics. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are about to join the EU on its German flank. In 20 years time, the very epicentre of European gravity will have been shifted eastwards to a point nearly half-way between Moscow and the Atlantic. That point is called Berlin.

This is the biggest building site in Europe. To travel through it, leaning out of the train window as the East-West European main line crosses precarious temporary viaducts, is to experience pure amazement. You can try to count cranes; I had got to more than 90, but had not nearly finished by the time the train reached the other side of the excavation craters. Far in the distance, towers and spires twinkling with contractors' lamps had already scrambled out of the yellow sand. Beyond them again, thousands of shoppers were already exploring the three-storey mall of "Daimler-Benz city", hidden under the grove of half-completed skyscrapers around the freshly-opened Marlene-Dietrich-Platz.

Once I knew this view all too well. This was where the train passed from one world to another. It pulled out of the last western station at Lehrter Bahnhof to rumble across the Spree bridge, with the Reichstag in the distance, and then — over a curving viaduct — crossed the Wall into East Berlin. From the window you could see the wire fences, the sensors, the sanded death-strip, the towers and floodlights. Beyond them, a broad hummocky waste of wintry grass filled the space where Hitler's Chancellery and bunker had been.

But it isn't just the Wall that has gone. The Spree river itself isn't there, diverted by cofferdams while a hole the size of Regents Park is being excavated. The old Hitlerian wasteland has vanished under cranes. The mountain of coal which used to lie beside the tracks here, in case of another Berlin Blockade, has turned into a Himalyan range of builders' sand. In the distance, the Reichstag building looks different, topped these days by Sir Norman Foster's outsize glass cupola. And the Lehrter Bahnhof? Its elderly suburban platforms, already part-closed, are to melt away in the furnace of the city's future and be resurrected as the most important railway station in Europe.

Berlin, not content with being a political capital, is to be a transport capital too. The two great European rail routes — from Paris to Moscow, and from Stockholm to Vienna — will cross precisely here, at the Lehrter Bahnhof of the 21st century. The new station, eclipsing all the other Berlin stations, will have a 430-metre glass concourse, 58 escalators and 37 lifts. The North-South line will run underneath it, passing through a tunnel nearly two miles long. On the whole project, German Railways are spending more than £7 billion.

Stockholm to Vienna? In the West, we hardly think of this as a vital transport artery. But this is because we have not yet learned the new Berlinocentric geography of Europe. Prague will be less than four hours away; east-central Europe, now entering the EU, will look to Germany and Scandinavia for markets and tourists and investment.

Very soon, though nobody knows exactly when, the new chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, will move his office from Bonn to Berlin. The victorious Social-Democrats (SPD) have said that they want to press on with the historic removal of government from Rhine to Spree. The next president of Germany will be elected in the Reichstag building in May 1999 by the Bundestag (parliament), settled into its new home. Some of the new ministries are ready to receive their tenants. Others are still holes in the ground. In the jostle for space, big ministries pull rank; some of the smaller departments which were located in West Berlin during the Cold War, like the Anti-Monopoly Bureau, are having to give up their offices and move to Bonn.

What should the parliament be called when it gets to Berlin? Should it go on calling itself the Bundestag (federal parliament), or the Reichstag (reich/imperial parliament) , or — with solemn accuracy — the Bundestag-meeting-in-the-Reichstag-building? This is not German pedantry. Everyone in Germany knows that the move from Bonn to Berlin is not just about removal vans. A new kind of state will arise, not all at once by decree, but gradually, as united Germany begins to settle into its new position at the centre of a united Europe, a continent whose point of balance is sliding hundreds of miles eastward. Germans now talk about the coming "Berlin Republic". It will not be like the sleepy, timid but prosperous Bonn Republic. This is expected to be a Republic with some Berlin qualities — sharpness, impatience, decisiveness. But neither will it be a Reich — an expansionist empire out to dominate its neighbours, an old-fashioned nation-state which no longer needs to pool sovereignty with others.

On the right, some intellectuals

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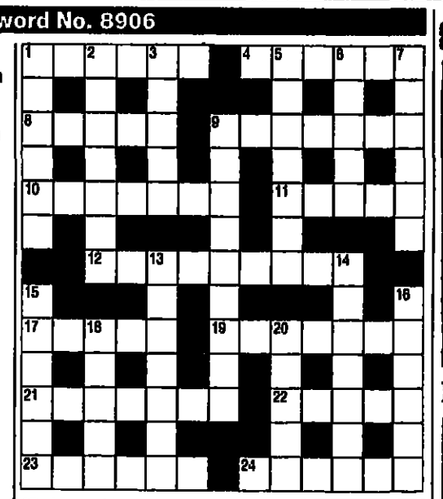
Quick Crossword No. 8906

Across

1 Choose — cream (6)
4 Cutting tool — type of puzzle (6)
8 Young eel (5)
9 Design (7)
10 End stations (7)
11 Loosen (5)
12 Handling — therapy (9)
17 Object to (5)
19 Specimen (7)
21 Momentum (7)
22 Surpass (5)
23 Ditch (5)
24 Vote (6)

Down

1 Scabbard (6)
2 Young hare (7)
3 Short-legged Welsh breed of dog (5)
5 Break in (7)
6 Pudding — could be tart! (5)
7 Marvel (6)
9 Blunt — to no purpose (9)
13 Irregular (7)
14 Current (7)
15 Afloat without steering (6)
16 Fanatic (6)
18 Sugar tree (5)
20 Stadium (5)



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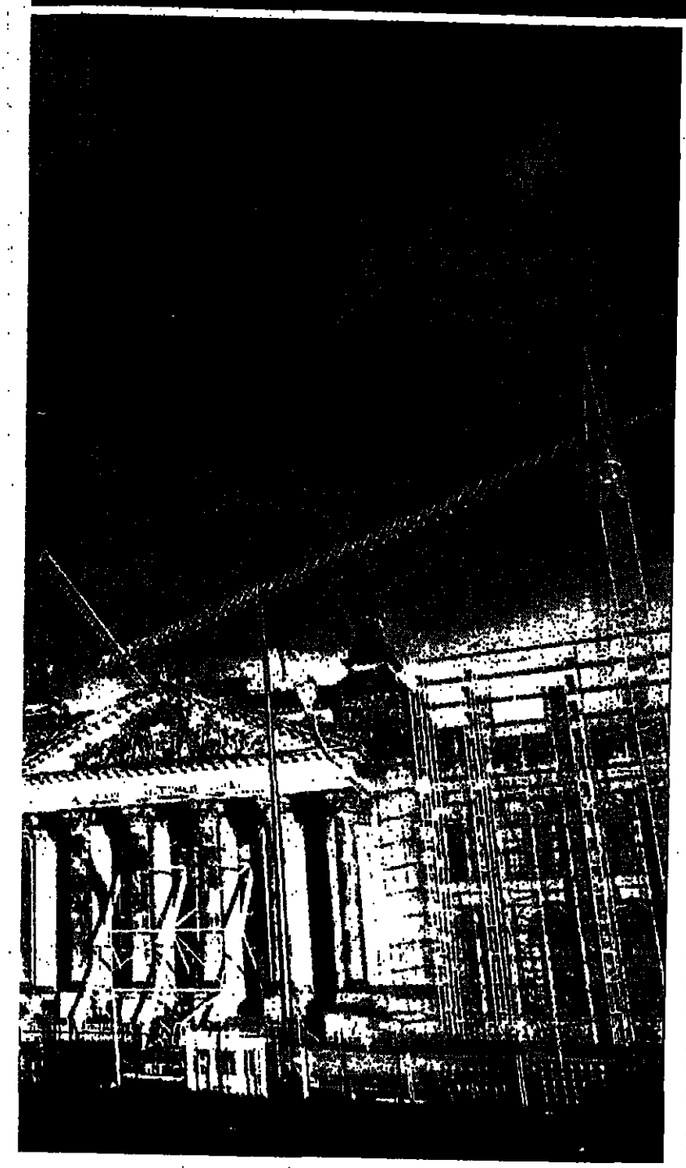
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ian banks, catering for the 13,000 immigrants from Russia and Ukraine. Many of them are Russian Jews who flock to settle in Berlin, untroubled by hang-ups about the Nazi past and not entirely compatible with the sedate German-Jewish community.

But these are only the official figures. They cannot take account of the enormous influx of unregistered and illegal migrant workers. Many are employed in the international army labouring in the vast central building-sites around the Potsdamer Platz — men (and some women) from all over the world, with large, brawling contingents from Ireland, Scotland and England. The Polish frontier is only 50 miles away, and anything up to 200,000 Polish-registered cars cross it and head westwards every day. Some are shoppers or tourists. But most of the people in the cars must be commuting to work in Berlin — in the insatiable black market for labour.

Native Berliners grumble about foreigners and crime. It is true that the murder rate is rising steeply, by about 16 per cent a year. But the figures also show that it is overwhelmingly Germans who murder other Germans, while foreigners murder foreigners.

Building Megalopolis on the Spree is not a simple upwards curve. There are stops and starts. Unemployment in the city still stands at 14 per cent, the after-effect of the collapse of the East Berlin economy. Speculation has run ahead of the market, at present, and all over the city centre there are completed office blocks which nobody wants to rent. Some firms, such as Daimler-Benz and Sony, are taking the plunge and moving their entire European headquarters to Berlin; their two rival "centres", each a forest of office towers, shopping malls and apartment blocks, are rising next to one another on what used to be the Potsdamer Platz. But other industrial giants, such as Siemens or BMW, are sceptical and staying away.

The city itself is technically broke. The population is actually falling slightly. This is because thirty-something couples, especially, are moving out of Berlin into the state of Brandenburg which surrounds it. Small, pretty towns set in forests offer them cheap homes to buy; a novelty, as only 10 per cent of Berliners are owner-occupiers. It is a classic stand-off between city and periphery; the commuters are paying taxes to Brandenburg while parking, driving and polluting in the city. In 1996, the canny Brandenburgers said "No" in a referendum on uniting with Berlin. Since then, the city has been slowly strangled inside the surrounding Speckguertel — the Fat Belt.

Around the big hole in the middle of Berlin, where 40,000 construction workers toil, their developer-paymasters scrabble for money, planning permission and favours from the governing Berlin Senate. Every construction firm and speculator in Germany seems to be in on the feast; some have gone bust, others have been exposed as swindlers or run foul of the law for building without permits. The architecture ranges from the airy and inspired (Norman Foster's Reichstag dome) to blockhouse atrocities like the new Dresdner Bank building. Feeble efforts to impose some sort of aesthetic unity on the place were soon swept away. Central Berlin — the government and business quarter — will be a crazy jungle of discordant styles.

On either side of Megalopolis, the capital of one Germany remains two cities. Glitz and elegance penetrate only slowly into the peeling streets of what was East Berlin. But the West, too, is changing. The Kurfuerstendamm, parade street of West Berlin, is slowly fading and tarnishing as the heart of Berlin's prosperity and activity moves away into the new urban heartland where the Wall once ran. Its naughty night-clubs, that world of top-hatted hostesses, transvestite taxi-dancers and Isherwood nostalgia, are no more than attractions for tourists. And the generation of Berlin politicians who knew only the West is fading too. Peter Strieder, the young and smartly Blairite SPD senator for the environment, will probably run for mayor. "Some people are still stuck in West Berlin attitudes," he says. "But my generation really did grow up after the city reunited, and we have a sense of Berlin as a whole."

Some things about Berlin, none the less, don't change. One is the taste for gigantism, for building on a superhuman scale, which reduces people to ants. The German emperors built like that, and so did Hitler, whose colossal Berlin reconstruction was scarcely begun when war stopped it. (Albert Speer's triumphal arch would have made the Arc de Triomphe look like a keyhole, and this year construction work was briefly halted when it hit the arch's battleship-sized concrete foundations.) After 1945, the communist rulers of the East created the windswept urban tundras of the Stalinallee in the same spirit. The glass and steel monsters now climbing into the Prussian sky are merely carrying on the tradition.

The other eternal Berlin trait is sudden, cataclysmic change. Every generation or so, something like the San Francisco earthquake happens and the city becomes unrecognisable. Two centuries ago, this was a dear little neo-classical town among lakes. Then, in the 19th century, its population rapidly doubled and almost instantly doubled again. On the site of old Berlin, there arose a swarming, pompous Imperial capital equipped with world-famous museums and surrounded by power stations and engineering factories. This city lasted until the second world war, when British bombing and storming by the Red Army smashed it to rubble.

Fifty years of divided Berlin ensued, until the Wall fell and once again the city went into transformation. After each earthquake, those who used to know the place wander about completely lost, in an urban landscape as unfamiliar as the moon. But that is the true Berlin experience. This is not so much a place as a process — or a Phoenix.

Capital gains: a tale of three cities

	London	Paris	Berlin
Population (in millions)	6.9	2.1	3.5
Theatres	53	111	116
Opera houses	2	2	3
Major galleries	46	31	33
Newspapers	14	12	7
Annual stockmarket turnover (in millions)	£824	$290	n/a

Research: Custodian Hill Copywriters

argue that the Berlin Republic should move away from the westward orientation of Bonn, into a more assertive and independent statehood. But the new Red-Green government, a coalition of the SPD with the Greens, has no such intentions. In that sense, they will bring the essence of Bonn with them to the city on the Spree. In an interview published in the New Left Review, the political philosopher Juergen Habermas spelled out his own hopes for a Berlin Republic. He writes: "We would all like to live amongst fellow citizens who are accustomed to respecting the particularity of strangers, the autonomy of individuals and the plurality of regional, ethnic and religious identities. The new republic would do well to remember the role of Germany in the catastrophic history of the 20th century, but also those rare moments of emancipation and achievement of which we can be proud."

Berlin's monuments of culture either collapsed under the bombs or withered during the Cold War. But unification has brought a rush of museum building, new projects or reconstructions. There are some 150 collections in the city, from the huge old buildings on "Museum Island" in the Spree to the new Jewish Museum, or the lofty spaces of the converted Hamburg Station. The cultural downside is that the property boom in East Berlin is driving out the large colony of artists from all over the world who settled there after the Wall came down.

Berlin has always been a city of "strangers" and of "plurality of identities". Most Berliners turn out to have been born somewhere else. There are 137,000 Turks living in the city, 72,000 people from former Yugoslavia and nearly 30,000 Poles. And there are now three Russian newspapers and about a dozen Russ-

1000 years days

To mark the end of the second millennium, the Guardian's website is conducting a whistlestop tour of 1,000 years of world history. Each Monday we publish the highlights here



Day 84: 1166-67
During one the periodic outbreaks of peace with France, Henry betrothed his son Richard to Alice, the daughter of Louis VII. The lad was already the Duke of Aquitaine. He was 10 years old.

Day 85: 1168-69
The tales of King Arthur in the "history" of Britain produced by the chronicler Geoffrey of Monmouth in the mid-1130s had taken the medieval literary world by storm. An Arthurian craze was now sweeping Western Europe and, in England, it was considered treason to question the so-called prophecies of Merlin.

Day 86: 1170-71
Thomas Becket returned to England from exile to a rapturous reception. He denounced Henry who, exasperated, uttered the infamous question: "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Four knights confronted Becket in Canterbury Cathedral (above), where they hacked him to pieces.

Day 87: 1172-73
Henry's sons — Henry, Richard and Geoffrey — rebelled against their father. Louis VII, King of France, egged them on. Dressing as a man, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Henry's extraordinary queen, escaped house arrest to join them, but was recognised and recaptured.

Day 88: 1174-75
In the beleaguered Christian kingdom of Jerusalem, the death of King Amaury brought Baldwin IV to the throne. He was just 13, and two years earlier had begun to show the first symptoms of leprosy.

Day 89: 1176-77
The cult of Becket was still all the rage in England. A memorial bridge was proposed, to cross the Thames in London — it would have houses and shops on it, and the rent would pay for its upkeep. This early form of privatised utility would become known as London Bridge.

Day 90: 1178-79
Chichen Itza, cultural capital of the Maya, was sacked by the rapacious and unscrupulous king of the Mayanas, Hunac Ceel. Surviving Mayans abandoned the city and founded a new capital to the south, named Tayasal.

Read on...

In print

Faust's Metropolis: A History Of Berlin, by Alexandra Richie (Harper Collins, 1998, £29.99). A history of modern Germany told through the experience of its capital city.

Berlin And Its Culture: A Historical Portrait, by Ronald Taylor (Yale University Press, 1996, £29.95). A handsomely illustrated account of Berlin's literary and artistic movements.

Goodbye To Berlin, by Christopher Isherwood (Minerva, reprinted 1989, £8.99). Classic account of low-life and decadence in Weimar Berlin.

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The Monday interview

Peter Ustinov
The man who did too much

He's 77 and just circled the Equator with a film team trailing him. He's acted, directed and written all over the globe. And he still doesn't feel at home anywhere



By Sabine Durrant

Portrait by Martin Godwin

Peter Ustinov is many things — actor, director, campaigner, playwright, novelist, raconteur — but a morning person he isn't. During the filming of Planet Ustinov, a four-part television series in which he circles the Equator, he was said to be "in an irritable mood" if roused too early ("You'd have to make it up with a long siesta," his director said).

At the time of our appointment — 10am at the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge (a portly art deco affair, just right for a man who once played Hercule Poirot) — Ustinov was in his bath. And when he emerged, a spruced walrus in a voluminous rust-coloured Thai silk suit, with raffia belt buckled high up under his arms, and an ebony stick clutched in one chubby, freckled hand, he was still in a bit of a grouse.

"I'm worried about my voice because, when you're as tired as I am, basically it's the first thing that shows," he said, pronouncing each syllable as if it were his last, and then coughed pitiably. The night before he had delivered a speech at the National Geographic Society; two days earlier he had been doing a one-man show in Munich; before that he had interrupted work on the travel series to direct an opera at the Bolshoi; that evening he was giving a talk at the University of East Anglia in Norwich ("I will have to sleep in the car"), and 24 hours later he was due to fly to India for the annual get-together of the National Federalist Organisation, of which he is president.

"To be late too many days one after the other and with the kind of social obligations... to have to *talk* to your *neighbour*... and I can't hear anything. I've got an irritated inflammation in one ear which they're trying to cope with and nothing seems to happen. It's all part of the same thing, with the arthritis and the rheumatism, all part of the microbes saying 'Now just a moment, just a moment, let's make a plan.'"

But, sneakily, doesn't he love it all really? "Love what?" The busyness and the attention and the travelling... He rolled his cane across his rumpled knees and looked thoughtful. "This year has been the worst in my life from that point of view," he said gloomily.

Sir Peter, who is 77, has been a celebrity for 58 years, ever since, as a 19-year-old actor and playwright, he was dubbed "genius" by the London theatre critic James Agate. He is the ultimate polymath. His critics have argued that he spreads himself too thin, but that hasn't stopped others hurling awards at him: two Oscars (including one for Spartacus), three Emmys and a Grammy (his recording of Peter and the Wolf), countless Commandeur des Arts and German cultural awards (lifetime achievements), an Order of the Yugoslav Flag and International Child Survival Awards (his work for Unicef), and honorary doctorates from Brussels, Toronto, Philadelphia, Lancaster... There was a small badge on his rusty lapel. "Oh this?" he said looking down his chin with some embarrassment. "It's the German equivalent of the Légion d'Honneur. The *Bayerischen Fernsehpreis*. I've only just got it."

He has worked with enough people (David Niven, Edith Evans, Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier, Joyce Grenfell, Noel Coward), seen enough of the world (famously, he's a British citizen with not a drop of British blood in his Russian/German/Italian /French corpuscle cocktail), mixed with enough people of historical note (great friend of Helmut Schmidt, Mikhail Gorbachev), married enough (three times, five children, one grandchild) to have earned the right to well-rehearsed reminiscence, and the odd much-used line.

How he could never vote for the Conservatives because they "all remind me of prefects at school [Westminster], they all think they're born to rule". How he once thanked President Herzog of Germany for being such good audience, and Herzog replied, "Yes I love to larf. But it iz always easier when zere iz a pretext."

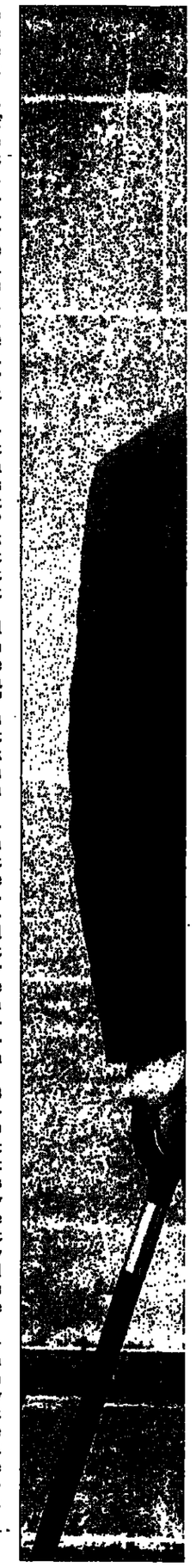
He is a master mimic, with an ear for accent, a beaky nose for the ridiculous and the pompous, and an astoundingly malleable mouth, in which the ends, tweaking and bending, slacking and contracting, seem independent of the middle and of each other.

Perhaps it was the hour. Perhaps it was the fatigue. Or his increasing age. But Ustinov seemed to have lost heart in his anecdotes the day we met. He drummed up a very good 83-year-old American pilot ("He said, 'Are you Mr Uskinosh?' — I said, 'Yes, probably I am' "), a jaunty Indian, the mincingly precise French accented English of his own wife ("zanck you frr not inzisting") and some wonderfully strangulated upper-class Brits. (He often seems to reserve his most vicious portraits for the British upper-class, revealing an obvious ambivalence to the country of his birth in which which he has always felt underappreciated).

But otherwise, he said "there you have it" and "that's the sort of thing, yes", and only pulled his face, which has started looking feminine in the way of old men, and with its pink cheeks, blue eyes and combed hair, generally less fierce than it did in the past, into the most distorted shapes when reporting on something "absolutely absurd" (the Indian visa system) or "absolutely grotesque" (Mrs Thatcher meeting Pinochet).

For Planet Ustinov (in which he puffed and wheezed in the footsteps of Mark Twain) he stayed on the South Pacific island of Kiribati where the mosquitoes were "ab-so-lute-ly terrible. That was the worst. That was the worst." The lavatory, the least said of which the better, was outside and one night he fell down on the coral-chip floor: "And I couldn't get up. Oh Go-d." He groaned. But the film crew also visited Hawaii. "And of course you're in the lap of luxury." He rubbed his dusty bifocals, and shook his head. "I don't care for that very much."

When not travelling, Ustinov lives in Switzerland and Paris with his third wife Hélène, whom he married more than 25 years ago. They have a vineyard ("an excellent wine, excellent, well, it's excellent for 11 o'clock in the morning") and a couple who look after them. He has a vast collection of classical records, with a smattering of flamenco, mountains of books and a yacht in the Mediterranean, complete with skipper, "which is nearly as old as I am" and one of the greatest pleasures in his life.



He drives a "Saaaaab": "I used to love convertibles but nowadays with a tendency towards rheumatism and arthritis I think a draught is the last thing I want. So I have a sliding roof." Didn't he once say that behind the wheel was the only place he felt young? "I never said that. No. I said that it's the only place I don't feel my age — for as long as I can still see the motor cars coming in the opposite direction. I like driving because it's a place where you can reflect and I really don't care for anybody to come with me on a long trip because it takes away the extraordinary feeling of solitude, which is not to be confused with loneliness."

But there is something lonely about Ustinov. Occasionally, he made some crushingly sad comment though he tended to bury it quickly. He said he had "no instinct for belonging. I don't feel at home anywhere... though I'm sure I feel more at home in more places than most people." Insisting that he doesn't mind getting old at all, he said: "What's fascinating is that nobody's been there before, you're on your own." He works to music because "silence I find embarrassing". He told a prepackaged story about the body being like a rented car, in the middle of which he said: "And then, for some reason you're born into a fat frame and, you have no particular objection to it, but you don't quite see why."

He once said his youngest daughter Andrea has the temperament of an only child, "always slightly on the defensive with everybody". She isn't an only child, of course, but he is. When asked about this, he gave a long, tragic description of Indira Gandhi, whose relationship with her children, he said, was cursed by the fact that she herself was an only child and who "had a tremendous nervous tic when she wasn't thinking, though as soon as she was focused on an audience, the tic vanished". At the end of the story, he said: "So I felt a kind of kindred spirit with her because I could understand what was going on in her mind."

He said his father, a journalist-cum-spy known as Klop, was not good with children, and, although after his two divorces he was awarded custody of his, "I'm not really either". Is he demonstrative? He scratched the back of his neck and smoothed down his tie. "No not terribly, not terribly. I have to put it on. I can give a performance. It's not the same thing, no."

He has got better as a husband with each successive attempt, though he finds it hard to believe he's as nice as Hélène says he is: "She's had a tough life too, so she's not reliable." He has changed in other ways. "I'm probably more willing to talk about things than in the past. I can talk about various things which are even embarrassing, all sorts of human problems, taboos."

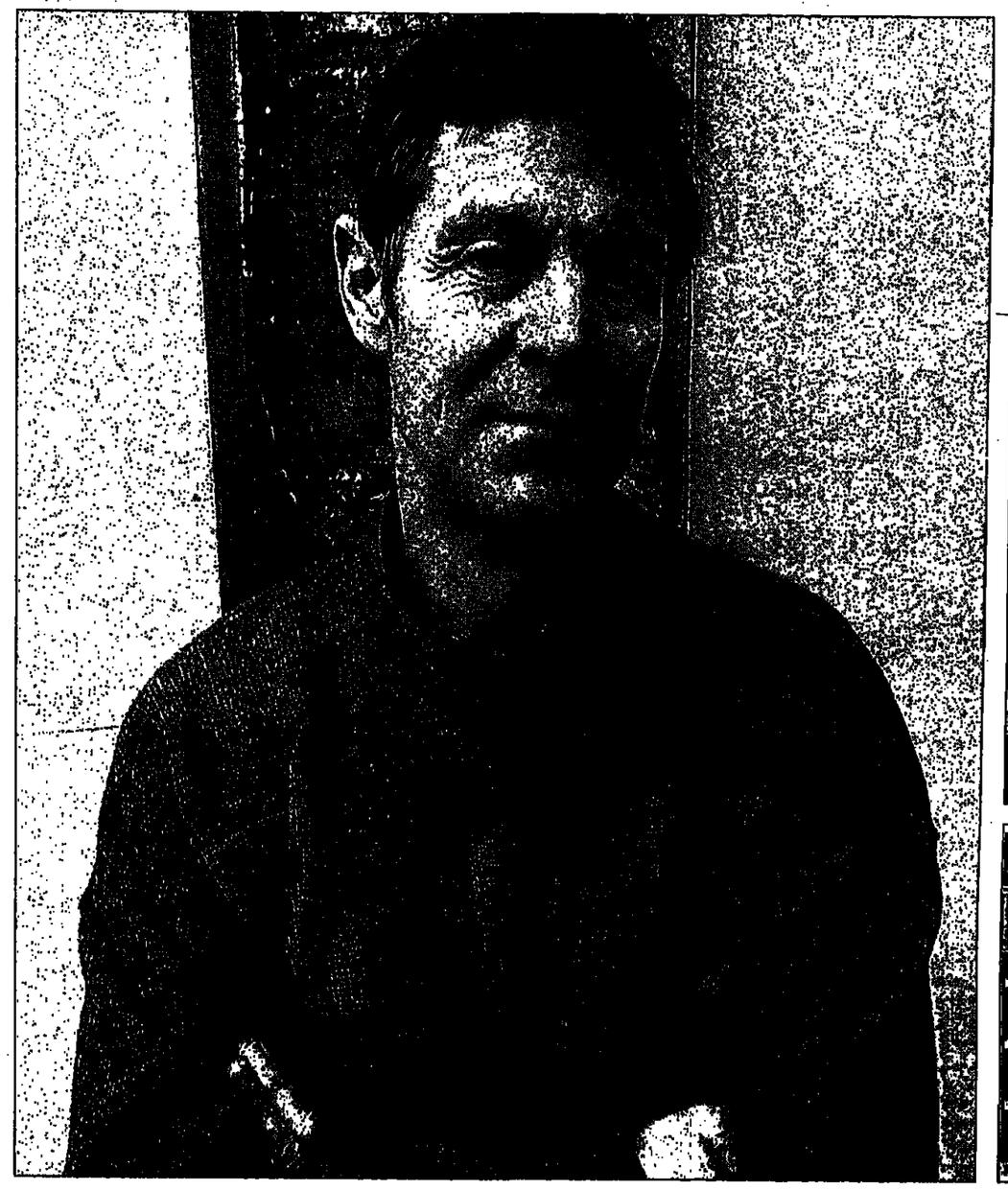
He gave an example then of a communal bath in New Zealand in which he was filmed bathing naked with a lot of Maori elders. "And it occurred to me that nobody has ever seen their backside... So we see the Ustinovian bottom? For a moment, he looked absolutely appalled. "No, no, you don't see anything. You see me in the water up to here." So he missed a chance then? He'll never see his own bottom now. "You can in the mirror," he countered. Not properly, not without twisting. "Quite, quite," he said. "And I can no longer twist that far."

Ustinov has written 23 plays, 13 books, nine films, countless memoirs; he's acted in 40 films, in 20 plays; he's directed eight films, eight plays, 14 operas. He speaks at least five languages. His entry in Who's Who is seven inches long. The boy who was called Fatty at school, whose father described him as "lazy" doesn't have much more to prove. Ustinov once said his ambition was to feel satisfied. Does he? He stabbed his stick three times on the floor. He gave another cough, a sort of "ahtakkk".

"You always want to do something better," he said slowly when he'd cleared his throat. "You can always be self-critical, even if they praise you to the skies. It's difficult because one's aim must always be perfection with the secret hope that one never makes it. Perfection to me is death. It's nothing. It has no personality. So, no, I don't. I don't. I'm never satisfied really."

Planet Ustinov begins November 30 on Channel 4

It began with Pamis Punch







Fall-out... sacked by the stumbling Sun, Matthew Parris (left) is satisfied that no 'outside pressure' was brought to bear; while News of the World editor Phil Hall (above) is furious at the attacks on his paper

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW TESTA

Commission to be given greater powers over what the press can publish although Lord Wakeham, the commission's chairman, writing in yesterday's Express on Sunday, again argued that self-regulation works.

The News of the World editor, Phil Hall, is known to be furious at the attacks, arguing that he has been unfairly traduced. He has said that his newspaper approached Brown with a series of allegations and that it was Brown's decision to make a public statement. If he hadn't, Hall insists he would not have published.

It is understood that the Government is sanguine about his actions and believe to have acted reasonably in the circumstances. So what are the mitigating circumstances? Hall's senior staff claim that the problem with attempting to defend the paper involves revealing the very details about Brown's alleged sexual activities which, while justifying what it did, would further embarrass Brown. It would also evidently cast light on a trade-off deal between Hall and Alastair Campbell, Blair's official spokesman, which lead to the public statement in which Brown confessed to being gay.

Suffice to say the paper had taped material from several sources about Brown's sexual relationships and, since publication of the story a week ago, has received corroborating evidence. If Brown had been engaged in heterosexual sex then many argue that Hall would have published. What stayed the editor's hand was his belief, based on some experience of readers' reaction, that the public have no appetite for reading the intimate details of homosexual acts. But whatever the problems at the News of the World and the Express on Sunday, it is still Yelland who has been at the centre of attention this week. What Yelland seems to be trying to do, as he has been since his surprise appointment as editor five months ago, is place his newspaper at the heart of events. He believes the Sun's salvation lies in its ability to make news rather than report it. It must recapture its former image as society's naughty boy after a relatively less controversial period, once more challenging orthodoxy on behalf of its huge, but declining, audience (see page seven for the latest ABCs).

This harks back to the 13 years from 1981 when Kelvin MacKenzie stalked the land. Though Yelland wants us to believe the MacKenzie era is finally over, it is noticeable that he has employed some of his mentor's publicity gimmicks to achieve his central aim. First, there was that oddly-timed and somewhat crude front page assault on Blair: "Is this the most dangerous man in Britain?" Though the Sun has been implacably opposed to the European single currency, it has also been an enthusiastic supporter of Blair's government. So the message for Sun readers was confused, to say the least. Yelland's claim, that it started a national debate about the euro, is plain wrong. And then there was the odd admission (in a week of odd admissions) in an interview last week that Yelland would never support the euro "unless it worked". Well, are they for it or against it? Yelland was equally pleased with his portrayal of Tory leader William Hague as a dead parrot, but it lacked impact because it appeared to be a gratuitous insult to a party every reader knows to be dead in the water at present.

Is the Sun now a liberal paper or still a homophobic one? How can readers tell?

Now comes the great gay drama and a series of Sun front pages which, while they have undoubtedly fulfilled Yelland's desire for rival media attention, most certainly suggest to readers that the paper has lost the plot.

The majority of Sun readers must be baffled. They don't care whether the Sun makes waves in the broadsheets and whether its editor appears on Newsnight. They want clarity and consistency. *Is* the Sun now a genuinely liberal paper or still a secret homophobic one? How can readers tell? It is perfectly reasonable to argue that the Sun's U-turns reflect society's own ambivalence about politics, the euro and homosexuality. But a paper that has no clear vision is in great danger of losing its audience. We can be certain that one reader, Rupert Murdoch, is watching Yelland very closely indeed.

Parris worried that maybe their were wider powers at work when the call came from Yelland and many have pointed out the fact that Murdoch was in London this week while the Sun lost its editorial head. Yelland is known as an editor who lacks the hands-on, storming around the editorial floor approach, characteristic of both MacKenzie and Stuart Higgins. Yelland is more office bound and many Sun journalists have found it difficult to get used to. Tensions are said to have grown between senior staff on the paper over the Sun's wobbly attitude to a series of issues. It has also been commented on that it was Trevor Kavanagh, the Sun's political editor, rather than Yelland who was put forward to defend the newspaper in the early part of the week.

"When I was sacked my first worry was that this was not just an editorial decision but there may have been some pressure from some other quarters, in which case I wondered if my position at the Times was secure," Parris said. "But I've had a long talk with Peter Stothard [the Times editor] and others over the past few days and I am completely satisfied that there isn't any outside pressure."

Parris admits that when he saw the now infamous Sun front page by Kavanagh asking if there was a "gay mafia" running Britain his heart sank. "The first half of Trevor's argument I don't accept but as to his second point that as long as things are kept secret some people are always going to suspect plots and conspiracy, that is right, and it is another reason why roll on the day when sexuality is completely not secret and no longer has to be discussed in hushed terms." Yelland must be wishing for that day as well, at least it would be one less problem on his plate.

On advertising

Trevor Beattie



Punch drunk

If I had a goat, d'you know who would get it? Blokes who punch the air. Blokes who punch their colleagues on the shoulder. Blokes who punch the keyboard on their laptops, swivel round in their angle-poised swivel-headed chairs, punch the air, then punch their colleagues on the shoulder.

"New" blokes who wear babies on their chests and test the temperature of the milk by sprinkling a few drops on the back of their hands before punching the air because, once again, it's Just Right.

Blokes who lift up babies, throw them high in the air, punch the air then catch them. Blokes who get that sequence the wrong way round in rehearsal.

Blokes who shave with one single sweeping motion from ear to chin, swivel round, lift up their blonde girlfriends, swing them round, drop them in the foaming surf and punch the air. In slow motion.

Blokes with lubrastrip, safety bars and no shaving rash. Blokes who shower with other blokes, toss the soap to one another and catch it with one hand in order to leave their punching hand free for a quick slow-motion locker-room punch.

Blokes who punch the air so often that they're probably single-handedly responsible for the hole in the ozone layer.

But above all, blokes whose generic jet fighters punch the air so hard that when they hit Mach 3, first their wings, then their tailplanes, then all their clothes fall off and they find themselves in a bathroom. As one does.

Sociologists and pharmacists alike have a Latin term for the aforementioned homo sapiens. They are gormuless fisticuffus gillettus or Gillette Men.

Male bimbos...? These fellas have first-class honours degrees in bimbology. And our TV screens are currently choc full of 'em.

Now as I understand it, there are only two methods by which a man (Gillette or otherwise) may experience Mach 3. I know, because in recent days I've been there, done both and bear the scars to prove it.

The first is to travel to a huge secret airbase on the outskirts of Moscow, hand over a gigantic amount of US dollars and have yourself strapped to the sharp end of a MIG 25 Foxbat, upon whose Promethean fire you'll be blasted to the edge of space before you can say whoops, rash decision.

The second is to pop into your local Boots and hand over the princely sum of £4.99 for the dubious privilege of scraping three (count 'em) scary-looking blades around your stubbly hung-over mush in the promise of a rash-free tomorrow.

I know which experience I'll be boring the grandchildren with.

Don't get me wrong, I have absolutely nothing against a big old-fashioned noisy Gillette product launch, believe me. But when it comes to three blades, I do have a very minor quibble.

In my day, razors had two blades. The first blade "pulled" the bristle, the second shaved it flush. Job done. Smooth shave. It said so in a posh animated diagram on't telly, so it must be true. Yet now I'm asked to believe (via an updated version of exactly the same disgrun) that THREE blades are The Way Forward. Why stop at three? Why not 17? Wouldn't that, by definition deliver the ultra, mega supa-lubra smooth shave? And if not, why not?

You see I totally understand the vital functions performed by the first and last blades. But will someone please remind me what the mysterious "middle" blade does for a living...? Here we are peering over the precipice of global recession and a giant international conglom like Gillette is shamelessly and irresponsibly employing millions of skiving shirking middle blades to do bugger-bloody-all while the rest of us first and last blades work our butts off every morning just to keep food on the table.

I want them sacked and I want it now.

There, having successfully outed these mediocre middle men before a grateful if unsuspecting world, I shall now take my leave of you all, peel off my clothes, step into the bathroom and, in a spontaneous gesture of triumph, erm... punch the air, probably.

Trevor Beattie is creative director of TBWA



So Mach-o... what exactly does the middle blade do?

Heads may roll, and even the Sun is undergoing a crisis of confidence. How did a gay drama become a Fleet Street crisis? **Roy Greenslade** and **Kamal Ahmed** report

It began with Parris

The call came between 3.30 and 4pm on Wednesday. Matthew Parris, in his usual office in the House of Commons gallery, picked up the telephone to find David Yelland, the editor of the Sun, on the other end of the line.

"He was perfectly pleasant," Parris said, tucking into a meze at a restaurant in north London. "I'll restrict myself to saying that I drew from it the conclusion that the alleged outing of Peter Mandelson was connected to his decision and that's probably as much as I should say."

It is Saturday lunchtime and four days after yet another twist in a tale of newspapers and reporting that has ended up being one of the most testing times for the popular press. Yelland had rung Parris, who also writes for the Times, to tell him that his column was being dropped. Three days earlier the Sun had posed the question: is there a gay mafia running Britain? Two days later, in a remarkable reversal of policy, it said it was no longer interested in "outing" gay ministers.

Readers could be forgiven for asking what the hell is going on at the Sun. Come to that, what the hell is going on at the Express on Sunday? Or the News of the World? For this is a story that goes well beyond the trials of Yelland's oddest week: it is affecting the whole of Fleet Street.

"I do think the Sun zig-zagged around in an embarrassing way but you have to give David Yelland credit for the position the Sun now finds itself in on this issue," Parris said. "It's a million miles better than the position the Sun was in three or four years ago."

Before we begin to unravel the tale we need to grasp the odd contradictions of public morality evident in this strange saga. It is debatable whether editors ever were able to press buttons and obtain expected results. Now they find it virtually impossible, especially where sex is concerned. Readers have grown accustomed to intrusion into the privacy of "famous" people and, though they condemn papers for doing it, they lap up the published results.

Given their antipathy towards politicians they are even more delighted when MPs are the victims. They believe they have a right to prurience, and papers desperate for sales are only too happy to oblige.

Yet the public, having got used to reading the salacious details of hundreds of sexual encounters, has also grown more tolerant of the people engaged in them. If so many are at it, then it's improbable to expect readers to be outraged indefinitely. Similarly, though people may be surprised to discover that X is a gay, they are no longer shocked by the existence of homosexuality (even if they continue to disapprove of it).

But lots of people, including many of those who proclaim a lack of prejudice towards gays, find the actual acts involved in gay sex, especially between men, deeply repugnant.

Most tabloid editors are aware of these contradictions but trying to tailor their editorial line to maximise sales — appealing to a reactionary rump and a newly liberal majority with split opinions — is virtually impossible. So the evening Ron Davies walked on to Clapham Common was not only a personal disaster for him, but something of a watershed for the tabloid press. It ended his career; now subsequent events could even cost some editors theirs.

Initially all newspapers acted to type. Where there is mystery at the highest levels of government there will always be intense press curiosity. Papers were quick to see beyond Davies's "lapse of judgment" statement and also were sceptical of the idea that Tony Blair didn't know more than they were told he knew.



Internal inquiry... Express on Sunday's Amanda Platell

The day the Davies story broke was also the day that Parris mentioned Mandelson on Newsnight, giving newspapers another angle on politicians and sexuality to think about. Along with the Sun, most papers adopted a largely tolerant line although a clumsy piece of BBC censorship — trying to stop their presenters mentioning sexuality — gave the story legs.

Then came the first major example of a tabloid reverting to the old agenda. The Express on Sunday published a scurrilous piece about an alleged "friend" of Mandelson which an internal inquiry has concluded was obtained by deception. The reporter evidently misrepresented himself when approaching the man named and pictured. Regardless of that it was a gossipy story laden with innuendo and without a shred of genuine public interest.

Given that the Express's owner is the Labour supporting Clive Hollick and its editor, Rosie Boycott, has been engaged in repositioning the paper, it was an unexpected decision to publish. Mandelson was very upset and cannot understand why disciplinary action hasn't been taken.

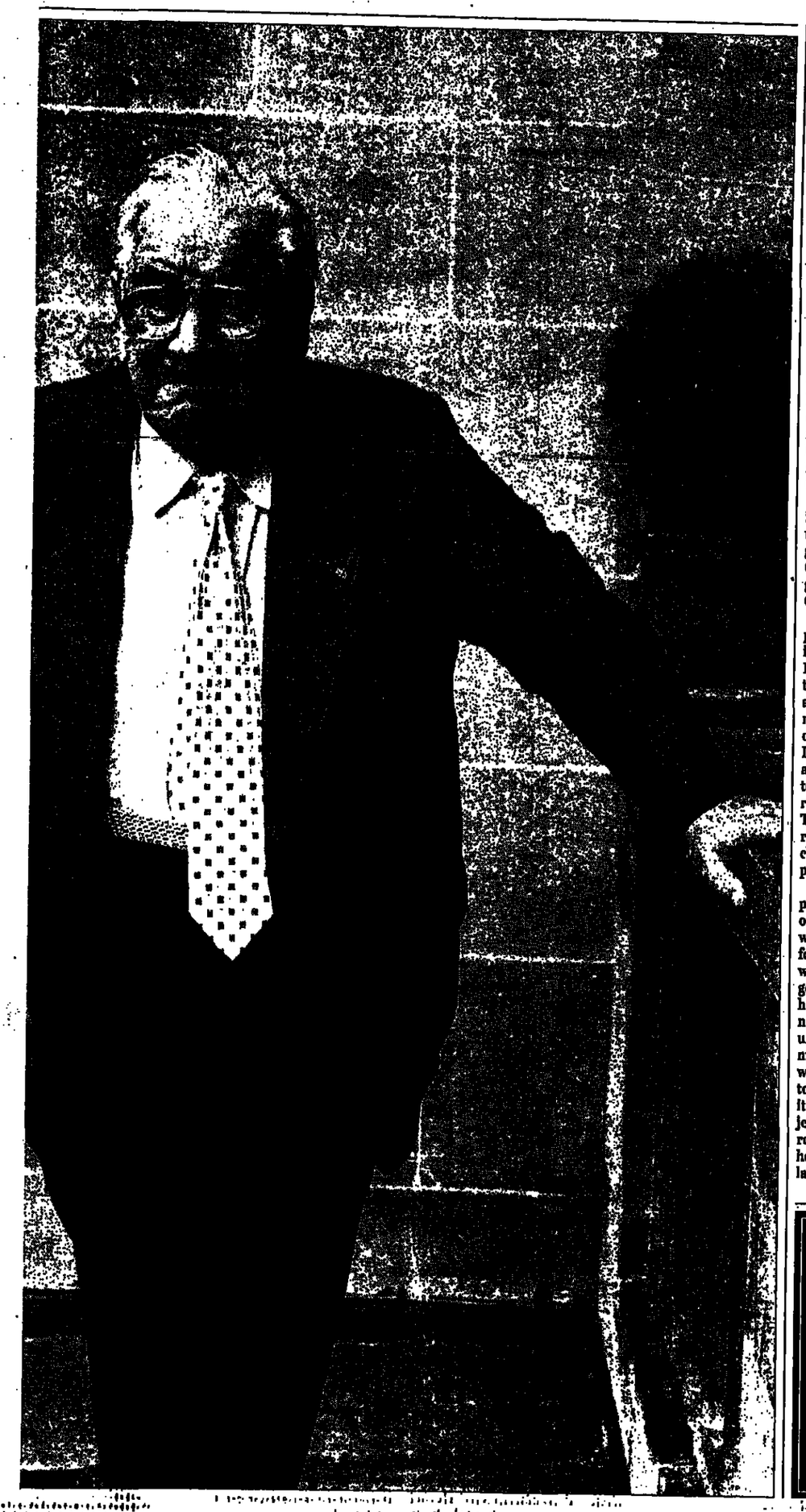
It will be surprising if the incident doesn't lead to at least one executive being fired. The executive editor, Amanda Platell, is known to be worried, though she was away when the story was run and her deputy, who wasn't, might be axed instead. The reporter, Andrew Pierce, can't feel too sure of his position either.

This drama has been characterised as a clash between the old and new cultures at the Express. Whether true or not, it really illustrates the predicament tabloid journalists now face, not only in dealing with stories involving homosexuals, but in their relationship with a government which, even if it can't totally control the media's agenda, has found an unprecedented way of exerting influence over it.

Parris argues that journalists have to be wary of self censorship, arguing that although he abhors outing he thinks there is a role for discussing in public issues of sexuality, like that involving Mandelson, which have already been reported. "The Sun now says they will never out anybody unless it is strongly in the public interest," Parris said. "Now, soon MPs will debate reducing the age of consent [among homosexuals]. People are going to argue that an MP's sexuality is in the public interest when they come to vote on questions of the age of consent.

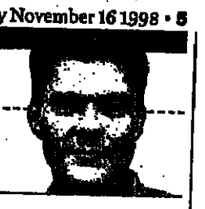
"You and I and the Guardian and others are going to have to decide what our answer is to that tabloid case. Anyone who has supported the idea that freemasons must declare their freemasonry is going to find an even more difficult case to argue why the reasoning applies in one case and not the other."

The Nick Brown affair raised even more question marks about press behaviour. The outing of the agriculture minister, apparently due to the News of the World "forcing" him to confess his sexuality, has led to widespread criticism of the paper, not least from the Guardian. There have been further calls for the Press Complaints



City of words

John Ryle



Labour's Victorian gay godfather

The gay-baiters at the Sun will have to do more digging if they want to uncover the true roots of homosexual influence in the Labour Party. This is because the Labour Party itself has largely forgotten about them. Which gay socialist's birthday was marked by an official greeting from the entire membership of a Labour Cabinet? Who it was that inspired the following declaration from a straight Labour peer? "His head and features were of extraordinary beauty, his face a chiselled statue... One admired him and loved him at once." Lord Bragg on Peter Mandelson? Lord Puttman on Chris Smith? Try again.

The answer is Fenner Brockway, in 1939, describing the arrival at a meeting of Edward Carpenter, the gay godfather of the British left. Cabinet ministers in the Labour government of 1924 sent a card to Carpenter on his 80th birthday.

Carpenter was a charismatic public speaker, author of best-selling works of radical social theory. He electrified audiences with his talks on the inequities of Victorian and Edwardian society. His millennial vision inspired some, at least, of the founders of the Independent Labour Party. It was one where men and women would be bound together, not by work or commodity relations, but by the force of love. True democracy, he suggested, required a change not just in the class structure but in the mode of production of the human heart.

The remarkable feature of Carpenter's life was that he lived openly in a homosexual ménage with his lover, George Merrill. A former Cambridge don, Carpenter was an academic apostate escaping gentility, and seeking the life of the heart among working men in the northern towns. Merrill was an unemployed jack-of-all-trades he met on a train in 1889. At a time when the "impure hush" of the Victorian era, as Carpenter described it, precluded discussion of the subject, he wrote books advocating the recognition of "Uranians", a term he derived from the German lawyer Karl Heinrich Ulrichs.

Carpenter was also responsible for developing the notion of a gay identity. It may still be news to the editor of the Sun, but the idea that homosexual desire might represent a stable variation rather than a recurrent vice was developed in the 19th century by German jurists and sexologists like Ulrichs. Carpenter embraced the new category in his work and in his life, removing it from the medical and legal sphere and implanting it in a theology of love. His vision was of a world where the boundaries of sex would be redefined round a recognition of the constancy of homosexual desire. It was not simply a plea for tolerance.

He was interested, as we are today, in the history and ethnography of the homoerotic impulse. His book, Intermediate Types Among Primitive Folk, is a gay Golden Bough, exploring sexual variation, particularly in military organisations and among the priesthood. Though it has been largely superseded in the explosion of academic gay studies, there are still lessons in it for all those who imagine that the presence of same-sex sex in their ranks is a new thing.

Carpenter's advanced ideas did not square with the image the Labour Party had of itself in power in the postwar era. (George Orwell has Carpenter in mind in The Road to Wigan Pier when he condemns the "fruit-juice drinker, nudist, sandal wearer and sex maniac".) And for decades he was side-lined. In the 1970s, feminism and gay liberation led to a small-scale revival of his reputation. But Carpenter would not have been happy with the present state of things in the Labour Party or in society at large. He hated promiscuity and materialism. He would have been unhappy both with the commercialism and satyromania of gay culture and the Labour Party's embrace of capitalism. But he would have applauded our openness to a wider range of human relationships.

Read more about Carpenter's life and ideas at http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/street/za03/EdwardCarpenter.htm

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revived. Anyway, it's now an unspoken rule, even in the New Yorker, that a profile of, say, Robin Williams, will be written in a novelistic style but say nothing that isn't positive."

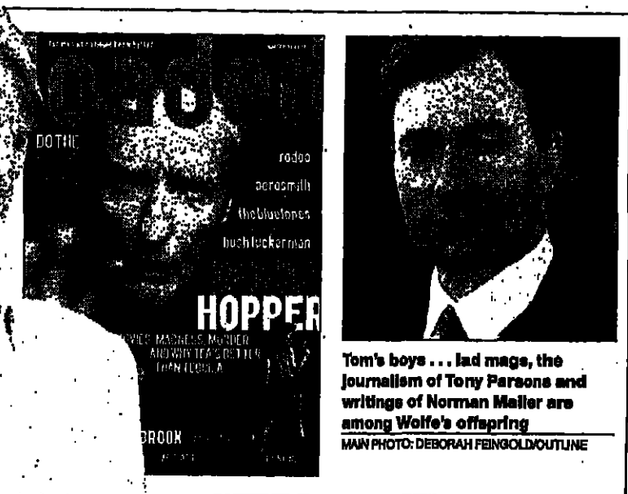
Sportswriting
Represented in the anthology by George Plimpton's "participatory" writing in which he hangs out with (and takes on) golfers, American footballers and boxers — still the source of every article in which the journalist takes a penalty at Wembley, or faces Pete Sampras's serve. But NJ's general approach has influenced recent sportswriting by the back door, via the same revolutionary "I" that transformed profile-writing. Twenty years after Wolfe attacked the persona of "the literary gentleman in the grandstand", Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch inaugurated a more complex and engaged relationship between writer and sport which many others have imitated.

Travel writing
Arguably, all "personality" travel writing (where the place provides an opportunity for jokes or satire or autobiography) reflects the NJ shift from pretended objectivity to overt subjectivity, even when the traveller is as un-Gonzo as Bill Bryson. But the movement's most blatant debtor is Redmond O'Hanlon, whose expeditions mimic the use of a saner companion in Hunter Thompson's adventures. PJ O'Rourke combines Thompson's no-holds-barred hedonism with Wolfe's dapper conservatism.

Non-fiction books
"[Wolfe's] influence has been enormous," says Peter Straus, publisher of Picador. "People have talked about the new non-fiction in the nineties, writers like Nick Hornby, Blake Morrison or Tobias Wolff. And their work clearly grows out of the work of people like Wolfe or Michael Herr. The new memoir is an offshoot of the New Journalism." And from the new memoir, for better or worse, comes the confessional column.

True crime
Represented in the anthology by extracts from Truman Capote's pioneering "non-fiction novel" In Cold Blood, and reportage by Joan Didion and Joe Eszterhas (the future Basic Instinct screenwriter, then on Rolling Stone), a clear line of "literary" true crime runs directly from Capote, via Norman Mailer's massive tome on Gary Gilmore, to the studies of Peter Sutcliffe and Fred West by the novelist Gordon Burn and Blake Morrison's book on the James Bulger case.

Politics
Joe McGinniss's The Selling Of The President, depicting Richard Nixon recording a batch of TV commercials in the anthology's extract, made the crucial shift to covering politics as the marketing of parties and leaders — influencing "insidur" campaign diaries (notably Rodney Tyler's 1987 book The Selling Of The Prime Minister), political biographies, Newsweek reporter Joe Klein's novel Primary Colors, and the stress on image and spin doctors in day-to-day media coverage.



Tom's boys . . . lad mags, the journalism of Tony Parsons and writings of Norman Mailer are among Wolfe's offspring
MAIN PHOTO: DEBORAH FEINGOLD/OUTLINE



Investigative reporting
Wolfe's manifesto essay underlines that NJ, far from being (as its opponents allege) "impressionistic", is dependent on intensive reporting — only that makes possible such typical NJ devices as recreating a key figure's thoughts or an apparently closed meeting. And the anthology is scarcely a fluffy collection, containing as it does three accounts of murders, pieces on Richard Nixon and Martin Luther King, Michael Herr and Nicholas Tomalin on Vietnam, and Hunter Thompson's encounter with the Hell's Angels. Nevertheless, hard-boiled reporters often saw it as their soft, subjective enemy. But the two tendencies have always been interlinked, from the readiness of late-sixties campaigning reporters to style themselves New Journalists (thereby annoying Wolfe) to the present-day use of NJ techniques in Sunday paper recreations of what went on behind closed doors during crises in government, business, sport or the media.

Most striking is the way the phenomenon of the journalist-as-star, made possible by NJ's liberation of the writing "I", was appropriated by news reporters craving the same high profile, beginning (in the same year that Wolfe's anthology appeared) with the Watergate investigators Woodward and Bernstein.

If you doubt this connection, there's a simple clinching illustration. Two journalists — both probers of society's underbelly, if from wholly different political perspectives — make a point of wearing white suits, even in inappropriate contexts: Tom Wolfe and John Pilger.

Obsessively preoccupied with setting out non-fiction's right to "dethrone" the novel (although he was to turn to fiction himself 14 years later in Bonfire Of The Vanities), Wolfe's manifesto pays only offhand attention to a similar "status war" within journalism, between news and features. But NJ's shifting of that relationship could be seen as its most radical effect of all.

NJ's founding fathers were feature writers, at a time when that job was typically viewed as a mere "motel" en route to a novel, and the magazine supplement (including New York, for which Wolfe wrote) was "brain candy . . . close to being the lowest form of periodical." By 1973, largely thanks to the revitalising influence of the new wave, that marginalised past had become incredible. Writing for a Sunday magazine — a phenomenon that crossed the Atlantic in the mid-sixties — had become the most glamorous job in newspapers.

Twenty five years later, the special Sunday treat has been reinforced by the Saturday magazine, the style supplement, the daily features tabloid, the host of specialist sections and subsections, with feature writers advertised alongside columnists as the newspapers' stars. Like it or loathe it, today's journalistic power balance has been decisively shaped by the rolling revolution that began in the early sixties.

My media



Adrian Wootton

Newspapers: The Guardian and Evening Standard every day. The columnists I read are Derek Malcolm and Jonathan Romney in the Guardian, because they relate to what I do. At the weekend, it's the Daily Telegraph, for its arts and books, the Sunday Times, Observer and Independent on Sunday.
Magazines: All the major film magazines, particularly Sight And Sound and Premiere. A lot of music mags, particularly Mojo, Vanity Fair and, because of my interest in Formula 1, F1 Racing.
Books: I'm an avid consumer of American hard-ball crime fiction — every new novel by Elmore Leonard and James Ellroy — and I intersperse that with less populist stuff. I keep up as much as I can with modern novels: at the moment it's Sebastian Faulks's Charlotte Gray. I'm a big fan of Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes.
Film: As I'm constantly watching films and meeting filmmakers, it's difficult to single any particular ones out. It's a rather obvious list: Hitchcock, Hawks, Kurosawa, Ford, Ozu. As for a favourite film, it would be a fight between Hitchcock's Vertigo and Nicholas Ray's In A Lonely Place and, for sheer romance, Casablanca.
Television: I don't watch enormous amounts because I'm in the cinema so much. But I'm a great fan of NYPD Blue, Frasier, Have I Got News For You and Never Mind The Buzzcocks. I probably watch more news programmes than anything else.
Radio: Very little. Heart FM, who are the LRF radio sponsors, and occasionally Radios 1 and 4.
Ads: I see a lot of advertising. The ads that stuck in my mind recently are the ECG ads for personal banking with Linford Christie and Zoe Ball.
Multimedia: I'm not a great surfer. I use websites for information relating to my job, and to see what my favourite rock bands are doing.

Adrian Wootton is director of the London Film Festival, which runs until Thursday.
Interview: Carolyne Ellis.

The Guardian Monday November 16 1998

Diary

● Paul Dacre is putting his stamp of authority on Associated Newspapers. In the interests of maintaining standards he has demanded that all subs must wear a collar and tie during the week, although there is some slight dispensation for sloppy jumpers on a Sunday. Dacre is well loved by the subs for stalking around the editorial floor at edition time, peering over subs' shoulders and "asking" if changes could be made to little bits of the layout, like, all of it. Long suffering subs refer to Dacre as the "grim tweaker".

● The Conservatives might have made a bit of a boo-boo in hiring Bruno Brookes, the former Radio 1 DJ, to be a key member of the Creative Forum, the farcical body set up to create "a new millennial brand image" for Hague and his boys. Brookes is well remembered for giving interviews about his former girlfriend, Anthea Turner, recalling her as "sexually very satisfying" – and for hiring private detectives to spy on her. All very Tory, and certainly perfect for relaying that all-important correct image.

● James Brown, struggling editor of GQ, was so pleased that he appeared above arch enemy Nicholas Coleridge in the Observer's Power 300 list he bought six copies and laid them strategically around the office. To ensure that his staff noticed his great victory he highlighted his entry in nice, bright pen. Brown came 233rd, Coleridge was nowhere at 286th.

● Now, now, Channel 4, where are your dictionaries? Far be it from the Guardian to lecture anyone on spelling but suffice to say that this arrived on our desk from Michael Jackson's obviously overworked press team (it's about a new series on the evolution of sexuality): "Psychologist Helen Fisher traces [women's] philanderous instinct to the planes of Africa 2 million years ago". We didn't know that Nairobi airport was the place to go for such interesting insights.

● Rumours of Jonathan Ross's rise to the heady heights of Film 99 could be wide of the mark. Johnny Vaughan, the clownish face of the Big Breakfast, is said by insiders to have overtaken him as favourite for Barry Norman's old job.

25 years after the seminal work which redefined the art of reporting, **John Dugdale** reveals the real importance of Tom Wolfe's New Journalism to everything from Loaded to the New Yorker — and yes, it could mean dusting off your white suit

The Wolfe pack

There's a certain irony to the way recent blanket coverage of Tom Wolfe and Hunter S Thompson – linked to Wolfe's novel A Man In Full and the movie version of Thompson's semi-imaginary Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas – has been triggered by their fiction. For, 25 years ago this month, they both appeared in a book whose main claim was that journalism had "wiped out the novel as literature's main event".

First published in November, 1973, The New Journalism (co-edited by Wolfe and EW Johnson) assembled a formidable squad of exponents of literary non-fiction, including Norman Mailer, Truman Capote, Joan Didion, Michael Herr and George Plimpton, to support that contention. Embracing social reportage, crime, politics, war, finance, interviews, sport and showbiz, it's the most influential collection of journalism ever put together.

You don't need to be a card-carrying New Journalist to have been shaped by the movement, as the cultural commentator Peter York argues. Wolfe's effect alone, he says, has been "massive, but it's often bounced off and refracted through other people, which means it's everywhere but usually unrecognised and unacknowledged, influencing people who don't even know where it comes from. By now it's absolutely built into everybody's DNA."

What, then, is New Journalism as Wolfe sees it? Tracing it back to the early sixties – his own "entry into this new arena" came in 1963 – Wolfe's lengthy introduction to the anthology identifies it as "journalism that would read like a novel", mimicking literary dialogue, scene construction and structure. These techniques served a novelistic hunger for social exploration – although the novel itself had lost its appetite for realism, perversely relinquishing the extraordinary spectacle of sixties America to mere reporters. And such exploration required research "more intense, more detailed, more time-consuming than anything that newspaper or magazine reporters were accustomed to".

Also questioned was the traditional persona of the journalist as either the dogged, trilby-wearing hack or what Wolfe calls "the Literary Gentleman in the Grandstand", aloofly disinclined to engage with those he writes about. The pose of impersonal detachment went hand-in-hand with a neutral voice (the "pale beige tone" of a "pallid little troll") which Wolfe wanted jettisoned in favour of grander stylistic experiments.

Already, in the anthology, you can see tensions emerging in the 10-year-old movement, with Wolfe aware that "foregrounding" the journalist could mean the creation of a Frankenstein's monster. Reacting against criticism of New Journalism as "subjective", and against late-adopters who too easily resorted to "an autobiographical format", he insists that "most of the best work" is third-person with the writer "invisible".

Introducing one Thompson contribution, he tut-tuts that here the writer's "I" brings out the character of his subjects (Hell's Angel bikers), and so is "quite different from the way he uses the first person later in his Gonzo Journalism". ("Gonzo" was Thompson's term for a sort of deranged, rambling, drug-induced hybrid of fact and fiction in which the journalist is as much *agent provocateur* as observer.)

What follows illustrates, genre by genre, just how wide-ranging the impact of the New Journalism (henceforward NJ) revolution continues to be. But revolutionaries can never control what they unleash. Wolfe can hardly complain about writers of sly profiles, having penned one or two himself. But it's fair to assume that gonzo journalism, the lad mag and confessional writing are all children or grandchildren he'd prefer not to acknowledge.



'For the first time, I felt I was writing the truth. I wasn't encumbered with this terrible overcoat of objectivity and omniscience'
— Lynn Barber

Style journalism

"You've got Tom Wolfe to thank for me," says Peter York. "I first read his work in the mid-seventies, just before Ann Barr asked me to write for Harper's & Queen, and it came as an absolute revelation. People take different things from him, the use of language, the whole perspective. What I took was taxonomies – doing pop sociology, discovering subcultures, defining new sorts of human beings." The best-known result (co-written with Barr) was The Sloane Ranger Handbook.

What York calls "Wolfe-ism" became de rigueur in Harper's and Tatler in the eighties, with writers for the posh glossies also mimicking Wolfe's dandyish irreverence, the smart send-up typified by Radical Chic's unflattering portrait of Leonard Bernstein or the profile of Marshall McLuhan that homes in on his 89 cent snap-on tie (this was clearest in Tina Brown's Tatler, following the lead given by her own writing).

Wolfe-ism then spread to the mainstream press, as glossy writers were hired and newspapers added style sections. But its reach extends beyond them, as York points out: "You now have motoring correspondents who think in social taxonomies, of the appeal of a certain car to unmarried middle-class women in Milton Keynes, and virtually every day in the [London] Evening Standard you'll get an article claiming to have discovered some new urban tribe."

The lad mag

The original nursery for NJ was a men's magazine, US Esquire, which perhaps explains why in most forms it has always been markedly male-dominated (only two of the NJ's anthology's 23 articles are by women), as well as why American and British men's mags have ever since acted as showcases for it. But civilised Esquire's brattish offspring, the lad mag, was directly inspired by the sixties movement.

"When I was 16, 17 in Yorkshire," recalls James Brown, the creator of Loaded (now editing GQ), "I read all the Tom Wolfe books. They were my further education, and if I was chucking out all my books, those would be the ones I'd keep. My original treatment for Loaded called it 'Arena edited by Hunter S Thompson'. He's definitely influenced the way I run magazines, that idea that if the story isn't happening, become the story."

Rock journalism

Probably the journalistic form most saturated with NJ. The British music press was influenced by Rolling Stone, which had rapidly assimilated new wave techniques. Brown recalls impressing the editor of Sounds (who offered to lend him the book) in the mid-eighties by having already read the anthology, and points to Tony Parsons as someone who "wrote about Wolfe a lot in NME and would love to be seen in the same light". For Peter York "rock journalism was hugely influenced by Wolfe, as they tended to take from him the verbal pyrotechnics and the interior monologue, where I took the social taxonomies. If you look at Dylan Jones's anthology, Meaty, Big And Bouncy, you can see it in people like Nick Kent and Charles Shaar Murray."

And the traces are still there, as the Guardian's Andy Beckett remarks: "You might read Wolfe's sixties stuff and think it's old hat, but it's all over today's music press, in pieces by people who probably don't even realise where they're getting it from. Even if you're reading interviews with the Spice Girls, there'll be strange openings and lots of exclamation marks."

The style mag

Pioneered by ex-NME editor Nick Logan's The Face in the early eighties (with writers drawn from NME alumni such as Nick Kent and Julie Burchill) the style mag was, like the lad mag, a spin-off from the music press, and so naturally another outpost of NJ. Juxtaposing the rock tribe with others – from fashion, art, photography, film, the media – and wrapping its writing in a glossier package, the style mag is actually more authentically Wolfe-like than the grubby rock inkies, being devoted like him to the totality of fame.

Profiles

When Lynn Barber describes how her approach to profile-writing was transformed in the early eighties, it's an exemplary shift from Old Journalism's dispassionate objectivity to NJ's involved "I". About to interview her former boss Bob Guccione, she asked if she could overturn the convention that "you could be 'your reporter' or 'the present writer' or at a pinch 'we', but you could never be 'I'." Being allowed to was "a leap from darkness into light – for the first time, I felt I was writing the truth. I wasn't encumbered with this terrible overcoat of objectivity and omniscience – I could say, as to my diary, what really happened."

Another of NJ's changes was that journalists spent longer with their subjects ("days, even weeks" says Wolfe). For Beckett, that approach has become "the orthodoxy in American magazine journalism". But it can have drawbacks. "When you're writing about celebrities, you're dependent on PRs giving you access. And they're only going to give you that amount of time with someone if they know the result will be sycophancy.

"So NJ's observation slipped into fawning observation, with endless descriptions of rock bands' tour buses. Maybe that happened in the eighties, when Vanity Fair was

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Arts Architecture

Spare me the holiday snaps and the glossy tomes. The only companion I need is Mr Pevsner

Jonathan Glancey recalls the days when he toured the country with nothing but a yellowing architectural guide in his pocket



Wish you were here, Herr Doktor... Germaine Greer follows in the footsteps of the great Pevsner

Last week, three weighty copies of London 4: North landed on my desk for review. This is the latest in the long line of architectural guides to The Buildings Of England, 49 to date, nominally co-written by the late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner (1902-83), an architectural historian who has become a household name among the great British church-crawling classes.

While it was more than generous of Penguin Books, which has been publishing the Pevsner guides since the first three emerged in 1951, to have sent me three copies, each the weight of a bag of sugar, they are too bulky to handle and two have since gone to worthy homes.

It doesn't seem so long ago that buying a "Pevsner" was a big event. Since they became hardbacks they have been expensive and, as a student, it took a long time to save up for the next volume. They were always worth it, though. Each volume was always fascinating to trawl through on a rainy day, plotting journeys to grand Baroque houses in Northumberland.

Thousands of us have travelled with Pevsner as our guide. The dapper German professor, who came to England from Goettingen in 1933, has long been at our side, nannying along our nascent ability to tell "Perp" from "EE" and filling our heads with dates, names and lovely strings of words such as "richly cusped ogees", "quatrefoils, corner posts and shaft rings" and "diaper work of vitrified headers". This as much the stuff of English poetry, nomenclature, place-making and eccentricity as a scholarly lesson in architectural styles and building techniques.

Well before his death, the good Herr Doktor Professor who never lost his wonderful "mittel-Englisch" accent, had himself become a part of the English landscape. He could be found not simply touring the country in his little cars, Frau Pevsner at the wheel, and peering through the windows of castles, farmhouses and draughty barns, but tucked away in the glove boxes of Austins and Morrises, Wolseleys and Rovers, wherever a National Trust sticker was stuck.

For the next few weeks, BBC2 is running the second of its series Travels With Pevsner, in which celebrities and writers trek around their favourite county looking at buildings through theirs and Pevsner's eyes.

Pevsner loved his adopted country and did more to map its architectural legacy than any other historian. His adopted country was fond of him (except during the second world war when he was interned on the Isle of Man). Whether the angels and saints would be as pleased to see him, it is hard to say. It is easy to imagine him turning up to the celestial city and noting: "HEAVEN, origin unknown, God: Baroque, ostentatious, ornate gates flanked by lifelike statues, possibly after Michelangelo, of St Peter and the Angel Gabriel; nothing of outstanding value, but a good deal still of dignity and pleasantness".

By the time he arrived there in 1983, Pevsner was set around with honorary doctorates, the prestigious Royal Gold Medal for Architecture and the good wishes (and sore feet) of the countless hundreds of bright-eyed students he had taken on memorable tours of some of the greatest English buildings.

Pevsner was a delightful mixture of erudition, pedantry, charm and, above all, opinion. Since his death, it is *opinion* that has gradually been stripped from new and re-edited volumes of The Buildings Of England. Over the years, the books have put on considerable weight. They no longer slip into the pockets of damp mackintoshes, and only the glove box of a Jaguar or Rolls-Royce is large enough to accommodate the latest editions.

Bridget Cherry, who assisted Pevsner with The Buildings Of England from 1968 and is editor of the series, has done a fine and exhaustive job since assuming Pevsner's mantle. No one would question her energy, dedication and scholarship. Yet I can't help feeling that as the books have become more ambitious and detailed, they've lost something special on the way. In trying to be neutral and disinterested, they have become a little anodyne.

> Only the glovebox of a Rolls-Royce is large enough for the new editions of Pevsner

Just to make sure I wasn't imagining this, I bought a copy of Middlesex, a 3s 6d paperback for £1 in a second-hand bookshop. Middlesex (pp204) is tiny compared with London 4: North (pp808), and is printed on paper from the age of ration books (these didn't disappear until 1954) that yellows with age.

Leafing through Middlesex, my hunch proved to be right. From the Foreword to Wood Green, Wrotham Hall and Yiewsley, there is compression, wit and the sort of sweeping, yet informed opinion that we are in danger of losing now that architectural history has become a form of sophisticated "trainspotting". In 1998, every building of every style and era is "de facto" interesting. Back in 1951, Pevsner didn't agree. He knew what he liked; he knew what he thought was poor architecture or which corner of Middlesex he found uninteresting. Who, today, would dare to write of Wood Green: "The Inventory of the Royal Commission says, 'No monuments known', and there is indeed nothing in the borough worth more than a cursory glance"?

In London 4: North, the entries for Wood Green are legion. Of the hideous Alexandra Palace (1875, J Johnson) at Wood Green, Middlesex says: "One of the most extensive and most prominently placed of London buildings; there is not much else to be said about it." In London 4: North, this Victorian monstrosity is described in minute detail.

When Miss Marjorie Stearn, then Pevsner's secretary, later his wife, pulled up in their "obstreperous vintage 1932 car" outside the Art Deco Hoover factory on the Western Avenue at Perivale, the professor is almost apoplectic: "HOOVER FACTORY, by Wallis, Gilbert, & Partners, 1932-8, perhaps the most offensive of the modernistic atrocities along this road of typical by-pass factories."

On other pages in Middlesex, you will find more examples of raillery from the dour historian. This entry made me laugh. "ELECTROFLOW FACTORY, Park Road [Miss Stearn has driven Pevsner to Acton]; by Adie, Button & Partners, 1937. An example of the contemporary idiom without any embellishment whatsoever. Mr Richards calls it diagrammatic." This is a lovely put-down. Pevsner clearly doesn't think much of the design and takes a clever swipe at "Mr Richards" [Jim or "Grim" Richards, editor at the time of the Architectural Review] whose defence of the building – "diagrammatic" – is clearly seen as meaningless jargon.

Outside newspapers, few magazines and the writings of the historian Gavin Stamp, no one dares to write about buildings in this way today. Most historians are keen to appear professional, unemotional and balanced at all times. They refuse to make judgments or to express opinions. To them, all buildings are interesting in the sense that everything (chewed Biros, 1984 Ford Sierras, black plastic bin-liners) is interesting to some extent.

This professional detachment is not necessarily a good thing. What it suggests is that all buildings are of equal merit. They are not. Most of the buildings of England, certainly in the past 150 years, are pretty trashy. We need to discriminate in order to preserve and design the best today. We need standards, guidelines, judgment and opinion. None of us need agree with one other nor with the learned Professor Pevsner, yet architecture is a subject, a cause, a passion that cannot be neatly defined and described by historians as if exists all on a level.

As Pevsner, in afterlife, has grown weightier, so he has begun to lose his magic. Perhaps The Buildings Of England should now be supplemented by a series of slim volumes full of slashing opinions, wit and knowledge worn lovingly. London 4: North is a magnificent document, but, in every way, far too heavy.

| that for 40 years."

Women

The age of dissent

Michele Hanson



Last week saw publication of a damning report into child abuse at a nursery in Newcastle. One of the most shocking aspects of the case was how long the abuse had gone on undetected, but it would have come as no surprise to Sophia McColgan: her own father raped, buggered and beat his children for 17 years. **John Mullin** reports

When Irish eyes are turning away

Sophia McColgan is talking about sexual abuse when she suddenly dissolves into giggles. She has caught sight of an old ghost, stopping to stare at her in the one-street village of Dromahair, Co Leitrim. The man in the cap wheeling his bike used to appear out of nowhere on the nearby mountains to watch while her father was raping her.

You would imagine the grubby cyclist would terrify rather than *amuse her. But McColgan, 28, is a* remarkable woman who says she is now extremely happy with her partner and two-year-old son, Gavin. The contrast with her savage childhood and adolescence could hardly be more stark, and Sophia's Story, written by journalist Susan McKay, sets out that catastrophic history.

Her father, Joseph, a farmer in Co Sligo, raped, buggered and beat four of his six children over 17 years in the family's rundown cottage. No one did much to stop it, despite evidence of physical abuse as long ago as 1979 when McColgan went into hospital with a broken nose. Her elder brother, Gerry, was later treated for a broken arm. The family was to have no fewer than 392 contacts with the North Western Health Board and to see the family GP more than 70 times.

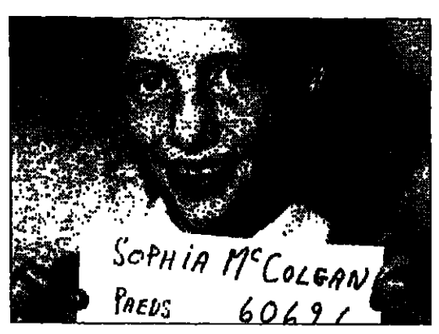
Yet still their father's reign of terror continued, for in rural Ireland, with its heavy emphasis on Catholic values, the unity of the family took primacy over the safety of its children. Patsy McColgan, the children's mother, was put under pressure to *continue with her disastrous marri*age. She had tried to give up her children to social workers back in 1979, but was advised against it; she was also advised that a separation would be too expensive. A priest told her it was her duty to "persevere, persevere" with her violent husband.

McColgan rejects criticism of her mother, describing her as a hostage like the rest of them. She recalls her mother being beaten so savagely during one pregnancy that she thought she would bleed to death.

The book is deliberately harrowing in its detail and McColgan hopes it will act as a wake-up call and shock Ireland into a more realistic approach to child abuse. It is often still ignored and the blind eye was key in her case. One neighbour told a social worker: "We all knew what was going on." Another told McColgan: "He was good to me. I wouldn't want to say anything against the man."

McColgan explains: "We live in a country in which people refuse to face up to the facts. I still cannot understand why nobody was able to stop what was happening to us."





Look back in anger ... Sophia McColgan, now 28. Left, aged six, at her first communion party, after her father had raped her for the first time. Below, at nine, in hospital with a broken nose



PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MILLER

She was first raped on a sunny day in the woods at Derreen Bog. She was six and it was just before her first communion. One of the most heartbreaking photographs in the book is of the little girl eating a cream cake at the party afterwards. Another is of her in hospital, aged nine. Her nose is broken but she is grinning because she thinks at last she is safe.

In fact the abuse was to continue for another 14 years. McColgan outlines in excruciating detail how she had to perform oral sex on her father, how she had to use her tongue when kissing him, how he buggered her, how he made her watch him raping her in a broken mirror, how he re-used condoms with elastic bands and how he inserted spermicide into her using a cattle syringe. He even tried to make her have sex with her brother, Gerry.

She coped by developing a form of dissociation. It was, she says, as if she were elsewhere. She would go off down the road for a walk as her father was forcing himself on her.

Rape was a daily occurrence. So, too, were other forms of torture. Their father's beatings stopped only in the early hours after one of the children bled, vomited or urinated on the floor. They were a cowed family.

McColgan's solution was to gain a degree. She reasoned it would mean that the authorities would take her seriously. Just after she graduated in environmental science and technology at Sligo Regional College in June 1993, her father almost killed her younger sister, Michelle, then 21, by running her over on his motorbike. She had failed to satisfy him sexually.

Michelle confided in a friend and *the police were called in. Joseph* McColgan was finally jailed in *February 1995.* He at first denied the charges, then eventually pleaded guilty to 26 specimen offences. He was jailed for 238 years but, with the sentences running concurrently, he could be free in 2004.

He, too, had been abused as a child. He had been raped and one of his molesters was the man with the bicycle in Dromahair.

The family turned their backs on anonymity when they decided to sue the health board and GP Desmond Moran in a High Court case. It lasted 13 days before a deal was struck last January. The defence teams initially accused Sophia of contributory negligence and argued that the case should be time barred — Irish rules stipulated that the case should have been brought within three years of her reaching 18.

But the out-of-court settlement left the children with undisclosed damages estimated at around £1m. There was no admission of liability, but the family viewed it as victory.

Sophia McColgan now works as a laboratory technician, but wants to return to university and study psychology. She intends to become a counsellor to victims of abuse. She says: "For the first time in Ireland, the silence is broken. A system that is supposed to help children and protect them is exposed, and there is an awful lot to do to put it right. I don't mind always being seen as the girl who was abused because there is no shame in being the victim. I am proud of what I am. I would be very ashamed if I hadn't stood up against blatant wrongs. Speaking the truth can be very painful, but I hope the reward is that, five years down the line, we have a very different Ireland."

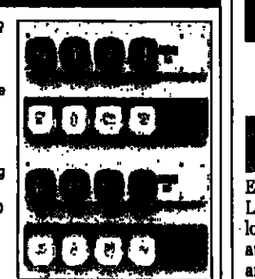
Sophia's Story by Susan McKay is published by Gill & Macmillan at £8.99. To order (£8.99 plus 99p UK p&p), call The Guardian Culture Shop on 0500 600102 or send a cheque for £7.98 payable to the Guardian CultureShop, 250 Western Ave, London W3 6EE.

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Dina Rabinovitch talks to Sarah Miles about lovers and urine drinking

Making a drama out of a life

If Sarah Miles' life were a movie, it would be called Everything (And I Mean Everything) You Ever Wanted To Know About Sex, Love And Marriage. Miles had a long affair with Laurence Olivier and famously married, divorced and remarried the playwright Robert (Man For All Seasons) Bolt, nursing him through his stroke. So not only does she know about love's thrills, she also knows about staying the course. She knows about consequences, too: in the seventies, Miles says, she became pregnant by Steven Spielberg and had an abortion.

Our interview is fixed for half past 10 in the morning. At 10.23, I press the buzzer and a honeysuckle voice comes through, registering several varieties of dismay. "We're not ready," Miles says. "You did say 10.30. We're Hoovering."

It is pouring with rain. This behaviour surprises me because when you read Miles' autobiographies — all three volumes — you think what a lot she has come through and I didn't expect a reception like this. In fact, given her life so far (and she's only 54 now) and the films she was in — The Servant, Ryan's Daughter, Hope And Glory — it seems extraordinary that the one fact everyone seems to remember about Sarah Miles is her urine drinking. How did it become the defining aspect of her public persona? Maybe, I muse, dripping, it's her way with a door buzzer that's done it. At 10.30, I try again. The door opens, without comment this time.

Miles' apartment, in London's South Kensington, was where she lived with Bolt when in London. She is settled in the large living room at the end of the narrow hall, flanked by two deeply padded dog beds, one red and one blue. The back wall is covered by a tapestry of Krishna and his women.

"All their faces are the same," the photographer notes. "Oh no," Miles says, stroking each of the women. "They're all different. The more you know them, the more you realise each of their secrets."

Miles is still in actress mode and this continues while she has her picture taken. She sits cross-legged on the floor, so we can all see she's wearing flesh-coloured tights with no pants. "No, that won't do," she says. Eventually she lounges but she's not really relaxed and you realise it's all just "stage business"; from the putative Hoovering to the quick flashing of flesh, it's stuff she does to make herself feel confident.

She's fretting about a scar on her cheek, but her face is lovely. Only once does she look old and it's an expression on her face (when she talks about the urine-drinking), rather than a sign of wear and tear.

She is acting and doing interviews again because she's out of money. What she wants is to be buried next to Robert Bolt. His grave is in the grounds of their country home and she can't afford the upkeep. She has written her first novel, Beautiful Mourning, and is renting out her home in the country and trying to sell the London flat. She is also going on the road with a one-woman song-fest, The Widow Smiles.

Olivier encouraged her to write and gave her permission to reveal their affair. "People knew, though," she says. "He got careless at the end; he was a Lord by then, he didn't give a damn." She has never been confronted by Joan Plowright, Olivier's widow, but says: "She knew how it was, she understands."

"Love isn't about possession" is a phrase Miles uses a lot, as is "You always go towards that which you fear" which is what she says of her new show. As a child, her family mocked her singing. When she was in LA in the seventies, she tried a similar performance and was not well-received, but she reckons maybe now her time has come.

In LA, she had her "Spielberg era", before he had become famous. A script featuring a man-eating shark came through the letterbox and Spielberg tested out the idea on Tom, Sarah's son by Bolt.

When she found out she was pregnant, she alleges, Spielberg said: "You're the one carrying the baby" meaning, Miles says, that it was her decision. She had an abortion. Spielberg went on to marry Amy Irving who, Miles points out, looks like her. "I do wish I'd had more children," she says. "I'd have liked a little girl. But I don't think I was a good mother."

She says this because she sent Tom to boarding school, which he hated. "Of all the things in my life, that would be the one thing that worries me still." Tom, 31, is married and a watch restorer. "They call him The Guru," his mother says.

The media finding out about her urine drinking — a health cure she learnt about in LA — has left its mark, too. She has never before told the story of how this got into the papers and there is horror on her face at the recollection.

"I didn't tell the whole world," she says, "the world was told for me, by Robert Mitchum. He gave a dinner party on Ryan's Daughter and I arrived early and saw these lobsters. Well, have you ever seen lobsters in a tank, really looked in their eyes? Because they're so witty, so wise-looking. I just took them out — he lived right on the coast and I let them go. When I got back, it was unbelievable. He said: 'You fuckin' bitch, I'll git you fer this one day.'"

His revenge was to tell the press that Miles drinks her own pee. When journalists rang her, she wasn't prepared. So when they asked her if it was true, she didn't lie. "I didn't lie because every time I drank some, I'd remember the lie. But I wish I had. It destroyed me. People walked around me like a bag lady."

Is she eccentric? Certainly she talks of messages she has received from Bolt from beyond the grave and she believes that she has the capacity to heal. She sees Wilde where others see crustacea and she overacts a little bit out of self-protection. She believes in making dying beautiful. She's outlived her men and lives her own life.

Beautiful Mourning by Sarah Miles is published by Orion on November 16, £16.99.



Acting up ... Sarah Miles